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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

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INSIDE

Late Nobel

Scientist Ralph Steinman wins a Nobel Prize for medicine three days after his death.

NATION...Page 14

Free at Last

Amanda Knox left prison Monday, a free woman for the first time in four years.

WORLD...Page 16

Alarming Rate

The nation's women in uniform are being sexually harassed and assaulted at an alarming rate.

FOCUS...Page 17

Submerged lands bill heads to US Senate

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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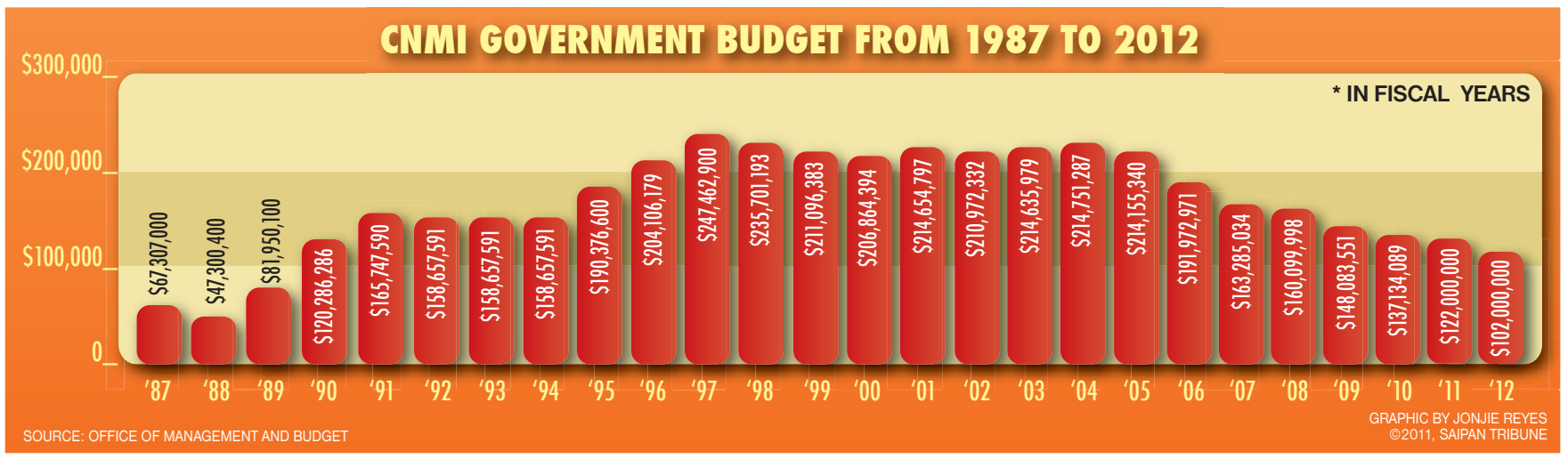
REPORTER

- CNMI officials rally behind HR 670
- Eventual quest is more than 3 miles

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's (Ind-MP) bill conveying 3 miles of submerged lands to the CNMI now heads to the U.S. Senate after the U.S. House of Representatives passed it Monday by a unanimous vote of 397-0, drawing applause from CNMI officials, although some of them want the Commonwealth to eventually own submerged lands 200 miles out from the shoreline.

See SUBMERGED on Page 4

CNMI government budget returns to 1990 level



By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's fiscal year 2012 budget of $102 million is back to nearly the same level as it was 22 fiscal years ago—in 1990—when the budgetary resources available for appropriation breached the imaginary ceiling of $100 million.

Had the Fitial administration continued to fund the Department of Public Health, the fiscal year 2012 budget would be some $120 million, much closer to the fiscal year 1990 budget.

With the birth of the garment industry in 1983, the CNMI's budget went from less than $50 million, earned mostly from tourism, to $81 million in fiscal year 1989, before breaching the $100 million mark in 1990.

THEN and NOW

With the CNMI's twin economy of tourism and garment in full throttle, the government's annual budget went from $120 million in fiscal year 1990 to $190 million in fiscal year 1995.

The budget then breached the $200 million mark in fiscal year 1996 before peaking at $247 million in fiscal year 1997.

Since then, it has been almost downhill.

The Asian economic crisis of the late '90s, followed by the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, the 2003 SARS threat, the bursting of the Asian bubble, the wars against terror, the pullout of Japan Airlines, the demise of the garment industry, and to a large extent the lack of austerity measures by the government led to the steady drop in government collection from taxes and fees.

It went down to $235 million in fiscal year 1998, to $211 million in 1999, and to $206 million in 2000. It went up slightly to $214 million the following year, went down again, and went up again slightly.

By 2006, the budget was down to $191 million and has since steadily dropped until it was only $122 million in fiscal year 2011 and $102 million in fiscal year 2012.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), a budget analyst in 1989 until he became the governor's special assistant for management and budget during the time of then governor Froilan Tenorio in 1994 to 1998, said that going back to the budget level of some 20 years ago could mean the CNMI "is heading for another recession."

If the Fitial administration implements another across-the-board budget cuts in fiscal year 2012, which started on Oct. 1, then the CNMI will have to live within less than $100 million to operate.

With federal labor and immigration still on shaky ground, utilities rates still too high, the lack of a new industry and pullout of still more businesses, the government faces further cuts in collection from taxes and fees.

"I am hoping that we've already seen the worst, that we've already hit rock bottom. If the economy gets worse than it already is, we'd be in real trouble," Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune*.

'Referendum' on Saipan casino all set for Nov. 4

»Group targets 60-percent turnout; results non-binding

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Current Issues class of the Northern Marianas College is all set to conduct a "referendum" among voters whether they support casino gaming on Saipan. The results of the poll will be submitted to the Senate to guide lawmakers on policy decision relating to present and future casino legislation.

In a news briefing Monday night, Current Issues class instructor Sam McPhetres said this is the first time NMC students will be conducting a referendum of this magnitude following a request from Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

Saipan voters first rejected the Saipan casino initiative in 2007. However, similar measures continue to be introduced in the Legislature seeking its approval. Currently, a Saipan casino bill is awaiting Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's signature after the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed the local measure. Casino advocates claim that allowing casino gaming on Saipan will save the ailing economy.

The Current Issues class, made up of 60 students, will

See REFERENDUM on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

New House casino bill to be pre-filed this week.

PAGE 2

28 percent drop in September car sales. PAGE 3

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Local

New House casino bill to be pre-filed this week

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Members of the House leadership will pre-file a new House bill seeking to legalize casino gaming on Saipan as early as this week, even as Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is poised to veto a local casino bill between today and Friday.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) and vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) separately said they were among the co-sponsors of the new local bill, whose main author is Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan).

Torres and Ogumoro said the new House bill will have many of the provisions of Torres' local bill.

A previous House casino bill authored by Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) was killed by the Senate, which wants Saipan voters to make the decision whether they want casino gaming be allowed on Saipan.

Torres, author of the local casino bill that the governor said he will veto, reiterated yesterday that he would still like to see a written legal opinion from the attorney general on the constitutionality of his House Local Bill 17-44.

Fitial, who has until Friday to act on the local casino bill or it automatically becomes a local law, said a local casino bill is "unconstitutional." As a delegate to the First Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention, Fitial said that "gambling is prohibited except as provided by CNMI law" and not by local law.

After Fitial met with House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and other House leadership members on the casino issue on Monday, Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and other senators also met with the governor yesterday.

But Manglona said the meeting with the governor was "99 percent about the hospital corporation, specifically the appointees to the board" needing Senate confirmation.

The Senate president said the casino issue was only "mentioned," and there was no call from the governor for the Senate to pass the new casino bill that the House is now working on.

The Senate tapped Northern Marianas College students under the Current Issues class of Sam McPhetres to conduct a Nov. 4 special survey on Saipan voters' view about legalizing casinos on Saipan.

Saipan voters have twice rejected casino gaming on Saipan; the last one was during the 2007 elections.

DPH named interim manager of the new health corporation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration has assigned the Department of Public Health as the interim manager of the new health corporation pending the appointment of board members who will select the corporation's chief executive officer.

Press secretary Angel A. Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* that the corporation will remain under Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez's watch until board nominees are named and confirmed.

"The health care corporation will, in the interim, continue to function with the same management in place prior to Oct. 1," said Demapan.

The health corporation, composed of the Commonwealth Health Center and the Tinian and Rota health centers, officially came into being on Oct. 1. It also covers the Women's Clinic, the Children's Clinic, the Community Guidance Center, and inter-island medical referral services.

DPH will later execute a memorandum of understanding for the orderly transfer of personnel, property, and funds to the corporation. As of last week, nearly 600 personnel have been absorbed by the corporation. It was allocated $5 million as seed capital for its initial operation.

The objective of creating the corporation is to improve management efficiency by allowing managers to better focus on hospital operations.

The corporation will have a seven-member board of trustees, of which three members shall be ex-officio voting members. One member shall be the chief executive officer to be selected by the board, the second will be the nursing director, and the third is for the medical director. Four of the members shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate—two from Saipan and one each from Rota and Tinian.

Demapan disclosed that "the administration will be holding meetings with health officials in the coming days to address outstanding matters such as setting up the corporation's financial management system and the governor's nominations to the board of trustees."

Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune* Friday that a list of potential board nominees has been submitted to the Executive Branch. No official appointment has been announced to date.

PSS: Tight budget needs careful planning

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The newly signed budget law for fiscal year 2012 leaves little wiggle room for the Public School System, requiring careful planning in how it will use up its $30 million budget for the entire year, according to PSS finance chief Richard Waldo yesterday.

He told *Saipan Tribune* that almost the entire amount will be used to pay for the salaries of 900 employees in 19 public schools and central administrative offices.

There are 1,157 employees under the system's payroll, of which less than 300 are paid under federal programs. PSS pays about $1.2 million for personnel wages each payroll.

Although PSS does not expect an increase in its workforce, Waldo said that payroll costs may go up due to the adjustments that have to be made on the salaries of highly qualified teachers and personnel. Beginning this school year, PSS only employs highly qualified personnel pursuant to the mandates of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Non-highly qualified classroom teachers, for example, usually get a $28,000 annual salary but this would have to be adjusted to up to $47,000 per annum once a teacher meets the HQT requirements.

Because of PSS' tight budget, Waldo said that paying for all other expenses and utilities would be "extremely difficult." Federal funds, he added, are the only ones that could save PSS in these areas. That's where he sees the Individual Assistance Plan of the federal government to come in.

"Schools have their IAP money that they can use for almost anything. So we're counting on this federal money to assist them in their operation," he said.

Authorized parents-teacher-school-association fundraisers are also expected to aid individual schools with their needs such toiletries and office supplies, he said.

For utilities, PSS spends an average of $3 million a year for all schools. With the installation of brand new air-conditioning units in all public schools, Waldo projects the utility consumption to go down by 20 percent.

Waldo revealed that PSS and the Executive Branch are ironing out a memorandum of agreement so that the central government will pay for the schools' power consumption this year. Once the MOA is finalized by both parties, Waldo said that PSS will no longer have to worry about its mounting utility bills.

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28 percent drop in September automotive sales

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Economic, labor, and immigration uncertainties continue to dampen the sale of new cars, vans, trucks, and sport utility vehicles in the CNMI. Authorized dealers reported yesterday a 28-percent decrease in new vehicle sales in September compared to the same month last year.

The Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association sold only 36 new vehicles in September, compared to 50 during the same month last year.

The 36 new units sold last month brings to 320 the total new vehicles sold between January and September—a 31-percent drop from the same period last year.

"It's the economic uncertainty, and everything else that's happening and not happening," CADA's Douglas Brennan told *Saipan Tribune*. He said financial hardship is coupled with labor and immigration worries that he hopes will subside soon when the CNMI gets used to the final transitional worker rule.

Brennan, the general manager of Microl Corp., said that CADA does not expect sales to improve toward the holiday season.

Microl Corp. sold 17 new vehicles in September, a 26-percent drop from the same month last year. Its year-to-date sales were also down by 41 percent or from 205 to 120 units sold during the first nine months of the year.

Brennan said that Microl is starting to recover from the impacts of the Japan quake and tsunami. "We're not getting our inventory back," he added.

Joeten Motors came second with 13 units sold last month, a 28-percent decrease from September 2010. Its year-to-date sales marked a 27-percent drop, from 158 to 116.

Triple "J" Motors sold only six new units in September, a 33-percent drop from the same month last year. Between January and September this year, it only sold 84 units, a 16-percent drop from its year-to-date sales in 2010 of 100.

Of the 36 new vehicles sold in September, 16 were cars, 10 were SUVs, and five were trucks and vans.

Toyota Corolla dominated not only the car sales but also the overall automotive sales market with six units sold last month.

The other cars sold were three Nissan Altimas, two each of Kia Souls and Toyota Camrys, and one each of Ford Fiesta, Honda Accord, and Hyundai Accent.

Among SUVs, Hyundai Tucson and Kia Sportage sold the most with three units each in September. CADA also sold two Mazda CX9 and one unit each of Nissan Rogue and Toyota RAV4.

Of the five trucks sold in September, four were Toyota Tacomas, and one was a Ford Sport Trac.

Of the five vans sold, four were Toyota Siennas and one was a Nissan Quest.

As for market share by franchise in September, 17 were Toyotas, five each were Nissans and Kias, four were Hyundais, two each were Fords and Mazdas, and one was Honda.

CADA sold a total of 29 used vehicles in September, bringing the year-to-date sales to 206.

Of the 29 used vehicles sold last month, 15 were sold by Microl, 11 were by Joeten Motors, and three were by Triple "J" Motors.

'Article 12 means eventual loss of landownership and investors'

David M. Sablan, a member of the group Citizens for Changing Article 12, speaks to members of the Saipan Rotary Club yesterday at the Giovanni's Restaurant of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A board member of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce emphasized the need to abolish Article 12 in the CNMI Constitution, saying that the land alienation provision "is essentially outdated" and inhibits future generations from owning land.

"The way the Constitution is written, with many new bloodlines that have less than 25 percent Northern Marianas descent, you lose your right to own that same land so that's basically why we think that Article 12 must be repealed, to give respect to those people that now own land and may continue to own land into the future generation," David M. Sablan told reporters after the Saipan Rotary Club meeting yesterday.

Northern Marianas descent, as defined by Section 4 of Article 12, is a person who is a citizen or national of the U.S. and who has at least one-quarter Chamorro or Carolinian blood or is an adopted child of an NMD if adopted under 18 years old.

Since the CNMI has become a "melting pot" of different cultures—Bangladeshis, Chinese, Filipinos, Japanese, Koreans—Sablan said Article 12 does not take into consideration those NMDs who are in mixed marriages.

As one goes down the line of these unions of NMDs with non-NMDs, Sablan explained that it will lead to loss of land ownership rights. "Their children can no longer own that land because their bloodline is less than 25 percent."

According to Sablan, the only way to prove NMD bloodline in land ownership is through the judicial system, which "is the difficult part."

"This can become very expensive and we don't think that we should go through that route because I know who I am. I own the land fee simple. Why should I go to court to try to prove what I am or who I am?" he added.

Sablan noted that there are "a lot" of people in the CNMI belonging to local lineage who are no longer able to own land, including those at the Legislature. "We intend to do that," said Sablan, referring to the conduct of a survey or scientific study to come up with the figures to support their claim.

Keeps away investors

Sablan, who has never supported Article 12 "from day one," said that it also makes potential investors "reluctant" to put their money in the CNMI since they do not have the right to own a fee simple land and not a public land.

Sablan, who is also affiliated with the group Citizens for Changing Article 12, cited as an example a hotel owner on Saipan who wanted to buy the land and, upon learning that he couldn't, moved to Guam where he bought five hotels, including the land where the hotels are situated.

Sablan pointed out that the CNMI needs to have an "investment potential" atmosphere if it wants to improve its economic development. "And we can. But we are not going to do anything until we see to it that Article 12 is taken off the books so that once and for all, those people that own land can do whatever they want to do with the land."

He emphasized that repealing Article 12 "does not mean that you're going to lose your land." Repealing it, Sablan said, gives landowners "a better grip and hold on your land" since they will have the ultimate or unilateral right to their land.

Educational process

With the CNMI scheduled to revisit its land alienation restrictions 25 years after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement in 1986—which means this year—Sablan said they are trying to educate as many people as they can to gather support for their conviction.

He said they conduct presentations to discuss issues concerning Article 12.

"I really hope that I get the support from the general public and I'm quite sure that we will once they know what I am trying to accomplish, or at least [what] the core group will accomplish by repealing Article 12," added Sablan.

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SUBMERGED

From Page 1

Sablan said that H.R. 670 provides equity to the CNMI people because the Northern Marianas is the only one among U.S. coastal areas that does not control its own submerged lands.

In the previous Congress, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) put a "hold" on a similar CNMI submerged lands bill, using it as a bargaining chip for an Arizona lands bill he wanted enacted. When McCain finally released the bill, it was too late for action before Congress adjourned.

Sablan said that HR 670's passage "would put the CNMI government in charge" of lands 3 miles out from the shoreline of its 14 islands.

The bill's number is coincidentally also the CNMI's area code of "670."

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial "is pleased to learn that U.S. Congress agrees with the Commonwealth as evidenced in the bill's passage."

Fitial submitted in May his written testimony in support of HR 670, which he said "finally afford[s] the people of the CNMI with the sense of equality it has pursued in an effort to seek equal footing with the coastal states and territories of the United States."

"All the other states and territories of the United States have long been granted and have long enjoyed the full right, title, and interest in their adjacent submerged lands," he said in his testimony.

The governor had said the CNMI should be afforded the same rights granted to all coastal American states under the Submerged Lands Act, which includes 27 percent of all federal rents, royalties, and revenues paid annually to coastal states and full right to 3 miles of submerged lands.

Fitial told Congress that HR 670 will help the CNMI in its efforts to protect and conserve its pristine natural resources.

"Although scarce in land, the adjacent waters and submerged lands of the CNMI are abundant in natural resources and marine life," he said. "Maintaining the health and abundance of the reef and sea is critical to the economy of the CNMI. Tourists come to enjoy its sights while people depend on a steady supply of fish for their sustenance and diets."

Sablan, in his statement of support for HR 670, used the example of Louisiana to demonstrate the important role that submerged lands could have for economic development.

He said in 2006, Louisiana leased 392,118 acres of its submerged lands for oyster harvest, profiting the state and providing an economic opportunity for holders of 8,167 leases.

"Other coastal jurisdictions have similar stories to tell about the important role that coastal lands and waters can play in creating jobs and contributing to the economy," Sablan said.

Since a 2005 court ruling, the federal government has controlled all the lands and waters right up to shoreline of the Northern Marianas.

"The federal government does nothing with the potential of these lands. H.R. 670 would put the local government in charge. We would be free to develop offshore wind farms or other energy alternatives, and responsible for protecting the rare marine environment, which is both our legacy and trust, and also makes our islands alluring to tourists," he added.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) congratulated Sablan for moving a submerged lands bill in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"The CNMI government is pursuing this for many years. …There's light at the end of the tunnel," Manglona said.

He said Sablan is being realistic by starting with "3 miles."

"I know he's not going to stop until it becomes law," he said.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) said he hopes the U.S. Senate will follow the U.S. House's step.

"Although it's only 3 miles, it will be a positive start for the CNMI," he said.

Although he supports 200 miles of control for the CNMI, Yumul said "this is a start in the right direction."

House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) also hopes the U.S. Senate will pass the bill this time around.

While he's glad that HR 670 passed the U.S. House, Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) said that Sablan should not stop at 3 miles.

"We should be asking at least half or 100 miles of the maximum 200 miles, and give the other half to the federal government," Torres said.

'Disappointed'

House vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) said while she appreciates the action of the U.S. House, she "cannot accept that the U.S. Congress will deprive the people of the Commonwealth of their rights to the adjacent waters and submerged lands in the Northern Mariana Islands."

Ogumoro, a strong advocate of indigenous rights, said the 3 miles represents only a fraction of what rightfully belongs to the people of Northern Marianas descent.

"I am extremely disappointed that the U.S. House of Representatives has disregarded what was agreed to in the Covenant, which was signed in 1975 between the United States and the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. Since when did the U.S. become the rightful owner of our submerged lands?" she asked.

Ogumoro said that pursuant to Article 8, Sections 801 through 803 of the Covenant and Article 11 of the CNMI Constitution, the submerged lands and the waters adjacent to the Northern Marianas belong collectively to persons of Northern Marianas descent.

"The United States Congress must respect what was agreed to in the Covenant, and take whatever action is necessary to reverse the 2005 decision of the U.S. 9th Circuit of Appeals which contradicts the Covenant—the decision which deprives the people of the Northern Mariana Islands of their rights to the adjacent waters and submerged lands in the Commonwealth," she added.

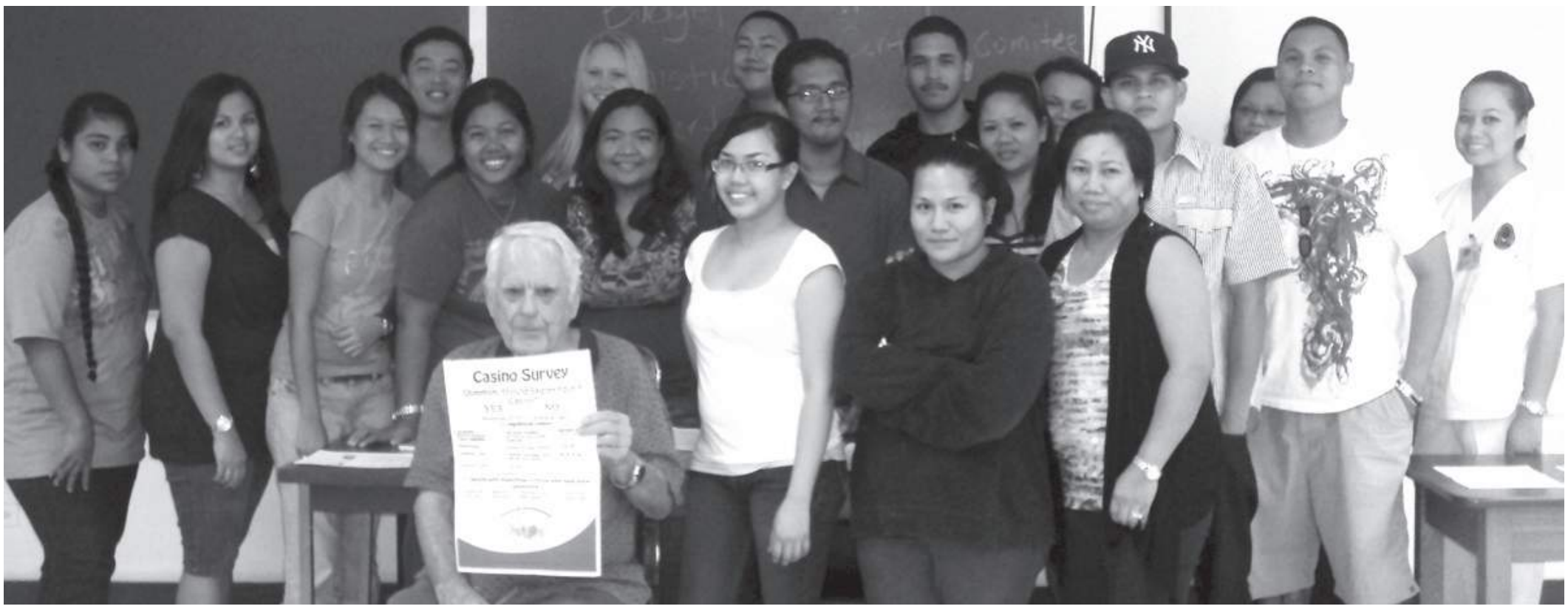
'Thank you'

In a statement, Sablan thanked the Republican chairmen of the Natural Resources Committee, Doc Hastings of Washington, and the Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs Subcommittee, Dr. John Fleming of Louisiana, for their support in moving the bill out of committee and on to the floor of the House for debate.

He also thanked Democratic Ranking Member of the Natural Resources Committee, Ed Markey of Massachusetts.

Sablan himself is ranking member of the Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs Subcommittee.

HR 670 now moves to the U.S. Senate where companion legislation, introduced at Sablan's request, has already had a hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The bill was introduced by the chairman and ranking member of that committee, Sens. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK).



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Members of NMC's Current Issues class gather Monday night for a press briefing about the upcoming advisory referendum on Nov. 4. Sitting in front is their instructor, Sam McPhetres, holding the sample campaign poster for the activity. This year marks the class' first-ever and biggest "election" activity for the class.

REFERENDUM

From Page 1

conduct the referendum on Nov. 4 from 8am to 5pm. The group designated four precinct poll stations that include NMC Building D for residents in San Antonio, San Vicente, and Koblerville. The Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center will be open for voters from Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, Oleai, and Garapan, while the Legislature will accommodate voters from Tanapag, San Roque, Capital Hill, and Northern Islands.

For Kagman residents, the designated polling place is the Kagman Community Center.

Early voting, meanwhile, is scheduled for Nov. 2 and 3, from 8am to 12pm, at the Man'amko Center and NMC Bldg. D-1.

McPhetres said the survey will comply with CNMI election procedures.

Three agencies have already confirmed their participation in conducting the survey. The Commonwealth Election Commission will provide both technical and logistical assistance such as ballot boxes. CEC executive director Robert Guerrero will also guide them through the steps to carry out the survey.

Both the Office of the Public Auditor and the Attorney General's Office will provide poll watchers and ensure the security of ballots from opening to closing.

According to Lauren Chadwick and Roland Dowai, key members of the group's central committee, they also requested assistance from the Department of Public Safety for some police visibility in the polling places and security of ballots on the day of the survey itself.

Target: 60 percent

CEC records show that there are over 12,000 registered voters on Saipan. The surveyors hope to have a 60-percent turnout.

This early, however, McPhetres concedes that a high turnout might be a challenge considering past experience—elections involving no personalities to vote for usually yield low turnouts.

"We're still hoping that everything will go smoothly and achieve a high turnout. In our past experiences, if there is no person running for a position, the turnout is usually low. We will try to overcome that and we hope to get lots of voters even though there's no personality being elected or voted on," said McPhetres, adding that the group has enough manpower to meet contingency needs.

All registered voters by Oct. 21, 2011, will be eligible to vote.

Chadwick and Dowai said that 8,000 ballots have been printed that asks one question—answerable by yes or no—"Shall there be casino gambling in the Third Senatorial District (Saipan)?"

As soon as the polling places close at 5pm, tabulation will be conducted at the central station at NMC Blg. D-1 and results are expected the next day.

Non-binding

McPhetres emphasized that results of the advisory referendum is "non-binding" and only aims to assist CNMI leaders in deciding whether to propose any law or policy regarding casinos.

"We will be specifically copying what the normal election would be, but results are non-binding and nobody is committed to any particular course of action," McPhetres told *Saipan Tribune* after the meeting.

Besides CEC, OPA, and OAG, the group will also be assisted by staffers of the Legislative Bureau on referendum day.

Although there are some costs involved in conducting the activity, McPhetres described the amount as "minimal."

The group estimates the overall cost to reach $5,000, a portion of which will come from private sources and donations.

The NMC Student Center, for instance, printed the initial 8,000 ballots for free. They are also waiting confirmation on transportation and refreshment assistance. Every Thursday, groups and committees involved meet to provide updates. Orientation for poll watchers and other volunteers are also slated next week.

To prevent influencing voters, group members are silent about their personal opinion regarding casino gaming on Saipan. However, many said the results of the referendum may be a determining factor for their future.

Over 1,000 new laptops arrive for all seventh graders

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System received Friday morning a shipment of 1,100 brand new laptops for seventh graders in both public and private schools in the CNMI.

PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh confirmed yesterday that students of Chacha Oceanview Junior High School were the first batch of seventh graders to get their units.

The rest are scheduled for delivery this week to other middle schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Thornburgh said the laptops cost a total of $465,000, with the money coming from the American Recovery Reinvestment Act's consolidated grant for fiscal year 2011.

This third batch of laptop distribution is part of the PSS One-Laptop-Per-Child project initiated last school year.

Thornburgh said that PSS will continue giving all seventh graders each year brand new laptops as part of the commitment of the Board of Education and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan to provide modern technology to secondary students to aid them in their learning.

"The One-Laptop-Per-Child program will be ongoing every year because as senior students graduate and new seventh graders are coming in, we need to make these technologies readily available for their use," Thornburgh said.

The Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior and High School and Tinian Jr. and High School were scheduled to receive their laptops yesterday.

According to Jack V. Diaz, PSS federal programs coordinator, the new laptops are Dell 2012 netbooks with the same specifications as last year's deliveries, but with updated memory and no touchscreen feature.

Diaz said that Chacha Oceanview Junior High got 178 units; Hopwood Junior High will get 864 units for seventh graders; 55 for Rota; and 35 units for Tinian.

For private schools, he said that PSS projects to give away 108 units this year.

The new units have bar codes for tracking purposes and are blocked from accessing certain networks for safety. They are also equipped with camera and WiFi.

Although PSS enrollment is not yet final, Diaz is confident that the 1,100 units are "enough" to cover all intended beneficiaries.

PSS procured over 6,000 netbooks for seventh to 12th graders in public and private schools last school year.

Diaz admitted that PSS has no idea about the number of units that were reportedly damaged or under repair as students go directly to Megabyte.

Meantime, Thornburgh said the education board and the PSS leadership are now looking at possible ways on how Kindle e-readers and iPad tablets can be made available to students.

IN RETRIAL OF 1999 MURDER CASE

Prosecution rests after calling six witnesses

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After calling six witnesses, the prosecution rested its case yesterday morning in the ongoing retrial of Franklin Cabrera Cepeda Jr. for the alleged killing of a man inside a karaoke bar in San Jose in 1999.

Defense attorney Colin Thompson took his turn calling in witnesses yesterday, including detective Jeffrey Olopai, former police sergeant Joseph Aldan, and Emiliana Angui.

Olopai said he showed up at the Yellow House Karaoke where the crime happened on March 1, 1999, as a responding police officer and that he prepared a preliminary report about it.

Aldan said he was involved in the arrest of Jeffrey Deleon Guerrero, who was the first one charged in the case and was subsequently acquitted. Aldan testified that they recovered two knives in Deleon Guerrero's car when they arrested him. He doesn't know, however, if one of those knives was the murder weapon and could not recall whether Deleon Guerrero confessed to the crime.

Aldan said he was not involved in the investigation of Cepeda and his co-defendant George Ilo.

Angui testified that Melvin Cabrera, Cepeda's uncle, is her former boyfriend. She remembers telling police that she saw Cabrera cleaning a Rambo-type knife but could not recall if it was two weeks after the murder of Rong Zhou, also known as Matthew.

The prosecution alleges that Cabrera was the owner of the survival knife used in the crime.

Testifying for the government on Sept. 27, Cepeda's co-defendant, George Ilo, narrated how he and Cepeda entered Yellow House Karaoke, then robbed and killed Zhou.

Ilo, who has already pleaded guilty as part of a plea deal, testified that their motive was to get money from the victim so they could buy "ice." Ilo said he had a knife while Cepeda was armed with a baseball bat when they entered the karaoke bar.

Cepeda's retrial is basically the third trial involving the murder of Zhou.

In 2000, the OAG charged Jeffrey Deleon Guerrero with murder of Zhou but he was later acquitted.

Police later identified Cepeda and George Ilo as suspects in the murder and charges were filed against them.

In January 2005, the jury returned a verdict finding Cepeda guilty of first-degree murder, robbery, aggravated assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and conspiracy. He was sentenced to 66 years in prison.

Cepeda appealed. In November 2009, the CNMI Supreme Court vacated Cepeda's convictions and ordered a new trial.

Assistant attorneys general Russell Lorfing and Peter B. Prestley are prosecuting the case. Defense attorney Colin Thompson is representing Cepeda.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

Office of the Secretary
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, M.P. 96950
Tel. 664-2576 • Fax. 664-2570

CHILD CARE PROGRAM
OPENS FOR NEW APPLICANTS

To: All parents and/or Legal Guardians:

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Child Care Program will be doing pre-eligibility assessments for new applicants. The program will open to a maximum of 150 children or slots only. For this opening, only parents who are attending school or training will be accommodated. Once all slots have been taken, pre-eligibility assessments will cease and applications will no longer be provided.

Pre-eligibility assessments will be done at the following locations, date, and time.

Location	Date	Time
NMC Campus, Saipan	Thursday, Oct. 13, 2011	9:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.
Multi-Purpose, Saipan	Thursday, Oct. 20, 2011	6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.
DCCA Tinian Office	Thursday, Oct. 20, 2011	1:00p.m. to 6:00p.m.
DCCA Rota Office/Round House	Friday, Oct. 21, 2011	1:00p.m. to 6:00p.m.

Parents and/or legal guardians who are interested in applying for the program must go through the pre-eligibility process and will need to bring the following:

- Three (3) latest checkstubs showing the applicant's name, hours worked (at least 60 hours bi-weekly), hourly rate, and gross monthly earnings (both parents)
- Most recent 1040 tax – for the year 2010 (both parents)
- School documents (class schedule, must be full time 12 credit)
- Training schedule (must have at least 60 training hours bi-weekly)

Interested applicants must bring the above documents to be entertained for pre-eligibility.

The Child Care Program Office will accept completed applications beginning October 14, 2011 (except on Oct. 17 and 18) and the last day to submit applications will be Oct. 25, 2011 at 4:00p.m. Completed applications along with the required documents should be forwarded to the Child Care Program Office Building No. 1347 Ascension Court Capitol Hill. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

For questions regarding the Child Care Program please call at 664-2575/2546/2587.

Requirements:
Applicant of Household
1. Check stubs for the most recent three pay periods for each parent or guardian
2. A copy of Identification Card for each parent or guardian (Passport, CNMI driver's license, Mayor's ID Card or entry permit)
3. A copy of your most recent 1040 Tax for the year 2010 (each parent or guardian)
4. Residency: The applicant or guardian must be living in the CNMI
   Provide one of the following documents
   b. Utility Receipt
   c. Telephone Receipt
   d. Entry Permit
5. Employment verification (CCDF Form)
6. Child support statement/stub
7. Training/Education Verification and class schedules
8. If single parent/guardian in a household provide notarized affidavit

Child/Children Household member:
1. A copy of Birth Certificate for each child (Child must be a US citizen or a qualified alien, as defined in Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA)
2. A copy of US Passport
3. A copy of Social Security Card

Approved for distribution: /s/ Melvin L.O. Faisao, DCCA Secretary — September 29, 2011

Funding from the Office of Child Care, US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families

'Despite $2M grant, CUC may not meet oil pipeline deadline'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite a $2 million-plus grant from the Interior Department, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. may not be able to build a new oil pipeline by the March 15, 2012, deadline, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency yesterday.

EPA counsel Bradley R. O'Brien disclosed that CUC is now apparently proposing to complete the pipeline project in May 2012—at the cusp of the typhoon season.

In a report filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday, O'Brien said that CUC's management of the pipeline project continues to worry EPA.

"Though design drawings are being revised, materials have yet to be ordered for the project," he said.

O'Brien said the construction contractor has discussed using a small number of people to implement the project, which is one of the reasons for the lengthy installation schedule.

"It appears to EPA that CUC's delays in getting this project started have impacted contractor relations and are leading to additional delays in implementation," he pointed out.

The CUC pipeline is an eight-inch aboveground receiving pipeline that delivers fuel from the Mobil oil facility to CUC power plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base.

Until the pipeline is properly repaired or replaced, EPA says it poses a threat to surrounding waters.

EPA and CUC first agreed to complete the project by Feb. 24, 2011,then moved the deadline to June 1, 2011. CUC completed a design but failed to build the pipeline by this extended deadline. The latest deadline is March 15, 2012.

O'Brien said that during a Sept. 16, 2011, meeting, EPA learned that CUC had scheduled on its own the completion of the pipeline project by May 10, 2012, and that removal of the old pipeline and other completion work would continue after that.

O'Brien said that EPA does not agree with CUC's unilateral extension of this or any other deadline. He said it is essential to conduct third-party tests of the pipeline to ensure that the contractor has complied with the design specifications and that welds are proper and secure.

"EPA has not received any information from CUC on the contracting of this critical component, nor was this information included in the schedule," the lawyer said.

In addition, O'Brien said, the removal of the old pipeline, which will still contain diesel fuel, is slated to be conducted immediately preceding the typhoon season.

"It is imperative that this activity should not be conducted during the rainy season, as diesel from this pipeline may be difficult to contain," he said.

Co-defendant denies ex-convict was with him during burglary

A man convicted of stealing aluminum shutters from a gasoline station's storage room came to the defense of his co-defendant yesterday, saying his companion was another male minor and not Ronald R. Kaipat, who is currently on trial for the same crime.

Taking the witness stand, Daniel M. Delos Santos admitted that he burglarized Mobil gas station's storage room in San Jose in the early morning hours of Jan. 23, 2011, and that his companion was a minor whom he had met at the Friendly Market earlier that night and had agreed to participate in the burglary.

Delos Santos also admitted to taking part in other burglary and theft cases that also involved minors and Kaipat's siblings but said he was never involved in criminal activities with Kaipat, whom he just met a year ago.

When asked by assistant attorney general Tiberius Mocanu to explain his short acquaintance with Kaipat, Delos Santos said that Kaipat was in jail.

Delos Santos described the minor who helped him with the burglary at the Mobil station's storage room as having long hair tied in a pony tail and dark complexion. Kaipat has the same descriptions.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged both Delos Santos and Kaipat for the Mobil station burglary. Delos Santos had pleaded guilty as part of a plea deal and has been in prison for four months now.

The prosecution rested its case yesterday. Kaipat's will continue today, Wednesday, with defense attorney Douglas Cushnie calling in witnesses. Kaipat's trial began on Monday.

A witness had testified Monday that he recognized Kaipat and Delos Santos as the two suspects who stole aluminum shutters from Mobil gas station in San Jose in the early morning on Jan. 23, 2011. He said Kaipat and Delos Santos were regular customers at the gas station.

The witness said he saw the suspects from the window of his apartment when the burglary happened. He then led a responding police officer to the homes of the suspects.

Police officer John Kaipat Wabol, who also took the witness stand, testified seeing 30 pieces of typhoon shutters stacked on a wooden table at the back portion of Modern Stationary.

The witness identified the shutters as the ones taken from the gas station's storage room.

Police said a police officer joined the patrol officer in searching the area after getting information that the suspects were still in the vicinity.

One officer spotted two men running south to the back of Modern Stationary.

Police officers arrested Delos Santos at his residence in San Jose, while Kaipat was picked up near the former Morgan's Building.

Mocanu and assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll are prosecuting the case. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Subway wins top healthy option, top service, most popular honors

TAMUNING, Guam—For the third consecutive year, Subway claimed first-place honors among mega chains as Top Healthy Option, Top Service, and Most Popular in Zagat Fast Food Restaurant Survey. The 2011 national survey covers 103 chains voted on by 6,064 diners and was divided into three categories: large chains (up to 5,000 U.S. outlets); mega chains (5,000-plus units); and quick-refreshment chains (focusing on beverages, ice cream, and similar items).

The results of a recent local survey comparing quick service restaurant chains in Guam mirror national rankings. Guam diners ranked Subway very high in the convenience and service categories and first place in taste, value, and overall menu options.

Gary Schiff, director of Business Development for Subway Pacific, acknowledges consumer preferences. "What keeps our customers coming to Subway is our brand's variety of sandwiches and toppings, healthy meal choices, and quick service from breakfast to midnight," said Schiff. "The results of both the local and national surveys validate that our customers appreciate what our brand is all about—fresh, healthy food made exactly the way you want it."

Subway also received a Grade A on the Eat This, Not That! Restaurant Report Card, the first chain ever to achieve that grade, as reported in the Sept. 13, 2011, issue of *Today's Health*. The article also made note of Subway's newest initiative to reduce sodium content by 15 percent in its regular sandwiches and 28 percent in its Fresh Fit sandwiches.

The Subway menu offers quick and healthy alternatives to conventional fast foods. The menu features the signature "8 under 6" sandwiches that offer a variety of low fat options.

Select locations now serve breakfast sandwiches made with either egg or egg whites to enjoy with freshly brewed Seattle's Best Coffee. ***(Subway)***

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
2011-CDA-06-RFP

LOAN UNDERWRITER

The Commonwealth Development Authority is soliciting competitive proposals from qualified firms, companies, agencies and/or persons to provide the services of a loan underwriter experienced in all aspects of the underwriting process, to provide independent contractual services for the CDA in the implementation of the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) Loan Guaranty and Loan Participation Programs. This procurement is being conducted pursuant to CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 70-30.3, specifically § 70-30.3-235).

The CDA on behalf of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) has applied for State Small Business Credit Initiative funds in the amount of $13,168,350 for the Loan Participation and Loan Guaranty Programs. Programs are subject to CDA and lender criteria as well as SSBCI guidelines.

The purpose of the programs is to provide businesses with high growth and job creation potential that will diversify and strengthen the local economy. It encourages expansion of existing and emerging new industries to expand economic opportunity to all in the community.

The Program targets the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CDA encourages the leveraging of new private investment in the form of fixed asset and working capital investment. The Program provides loan guaranty and participation of up to $5 million to businesses at interest rates and loan maturities that encourage business development and facilitate reinvestment while providing for the recapitalization and growth of fund. The program perpetuates a positive and proactive business climate that encourages the retention and expansion of existing businesses and helps to attract desirable new businesses. The Program objective is to leverage the SSBCI funding ten times (10X) with private financing.

The guidelines and specifications for this RFP may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950 during normal working hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Holidays, or from the Office of Procurement and Supply in Lower Base.

Respectfully

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNEMENT
October 4, 2011

The Department of Commerce, through a technical assistance grant from the Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior, has funding available for sub-granting to support the CNMI Economic and Labor Enhancement Program. Interested applicants within the CNMI are encouraged to submit a proposal for the listed programs below.

Available Program Funding: a.) Tourism Hospitality Enhancement Program: $50,000.00 (competitive); b.) Labor Enhancement Program: $450,000.00 (competitive); c.)Agriculture and Aquaculture Enhancement Program: $150,000.00 (competitive)

The Technical Assistance grants are to provide assistance for eligible applicants to develop or expand an "on-the-job training program", to train United States eligible workers (U.S. Citizens, FAS Citizens, and green card holders) where the actual jobs are, so that trainees can meet the job requirements and become employable upon completion of their training. The Technical Assistance grants are not to "supplement" salaries for trainees, local government, private entities, and non-profit organization employees. In addition, grant funds may not be used for equipment and supplies. Only allowable costs include the following: Professional Services, Personnel Training, Advertisement, Printing and Photocopying.

Submission deadline: The submission deadline of grant proposals and sub-grant applications is no later than 3:00 p.m., October 13th, 2011 at CNMI Department of Commerce located at the Donni Hill Complex, Capitol Hill second floor room #8. Submitted proposals and applications of five set (1 original & 4 copy).

Pre-proposal Conference: *Will be held at the Department of Commerce conference room #12 at 10am – 11am on October 6th, 2011.*

Decision Timeframe: Decisions on funding of project proposals are subject to the availability of funds. The TA sub-grant committee will meet at the Multipurpose Center between 8am – 12pm; applicants are welcomed to do a 5-10 minute PowerPoint presentation.

1. ***Proposals will be evaluated utilizing the following criteria:***
   - *Qualifications, background and prior experience in conducting similar work or projects.*
   - *Content and technical approach and understanding the scope of the project.*
   - *Demonstrate quality and completeness of requested information as it relates to technical approach.*
   - *Detailed information describing exactly how the Project will be completed using the program description and the ability to comply with all acts, laws, and codes.*
   - *Cost as compared with the level of effort to be expended.*
2. ***The evaluation will be base upon the following criteria:***
   - ***40% - Overall Cost***
   - ***30% - Technical Expertise***
   - ***15% - Commitment of Resources***
   - ***15% - Previous Experience in projects of similar scope***
3. ***Eligible Applicants***

Eligible applicants are the public agencies and chartered non-profit organizations whose mission directly benefits the CNMI Economic and Labor Enhancement Program.

Available Sub-grant Application Forms and Detailed Project Scope
Sub-grant application forms and project scope details can be obtained at the CNMI Department of Commerce located at the Donni Hill Complex, Capitol Hill, or request via email from Project Coordinator/POC Mark Rabauliman, ta.elep2011@commerce.gov.mp or call 664-3002

/s/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
For the Department of Commerce

$1M to be used for OJT programs for US eligible workers

The CNMI Department of Commerce was recently awarded a $1 million technical assistance grant by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs to support the CNMI Economic and Labor Enhancement Program.

This grant was made available following the OIA's Forum on Economic and Labor Development report recommendations. This is also a part of the CNRA's requirement under Public Law 110-229 in an effort to help mitigate the anticipated economic impact associated with the enactment of the law that extended the federalization of immigration to the CNMI.

Commerce met with the Marianas Visitors Authority, farmers, and other key community groups to discuss the available grant funding.

"Due to the great demand of technical assistance proposals received by Commerce, a decision was made that we should provide an opportunity for the public to refocus on the initial funding scope and request for sub-grantee proposals. Although the timeframe is short, as prospects or interested applicants are only given until the 13th of this month to submit the proposals, we believe that enough information has been disseminated to inform key stake-holders accordingly," said Mark Rabauliman, project coordinator and point of contact for the TA-CNMI-2011-5 interior grant award.

The technical assistance grant is to provide assistance for eligible applicants to develop or expand an "on-the-job training program" to train U.S. eligible workers (U.S. citizens, FAS citizens, and green card holders) where the actual jobs are, so that trainees can meet the job requirements and become employable upon completion of their training. The technical assistance grants are not to "supplement" salaries for trainees, local government, private entities, and non-profit organization employees. In addition, grant funds may not be used for equipment and supplies. Allowable costs include professional services, personnel training, advertisement, printing, and photocopying.

Commerce will use the available funding for sub-granting to eligible and qualified applicants including public agencies and registered non-profit organizations to implement economic and labor enhancement programs in the CNMI. This includes programs to develop and enhance the areas of tourism, hands-on training programs that enhance technical, vocational, and professional skills for U.S. eligible workers.

"We believe that the funding, which was allotted in the amount of $650,000 for sub-granting, will be sufficient to jump-start the three missions: tourism enhancement program, labor enhancement program, and agriculture and aquaculture enhancement program, under the grant award," said Rabauliman.

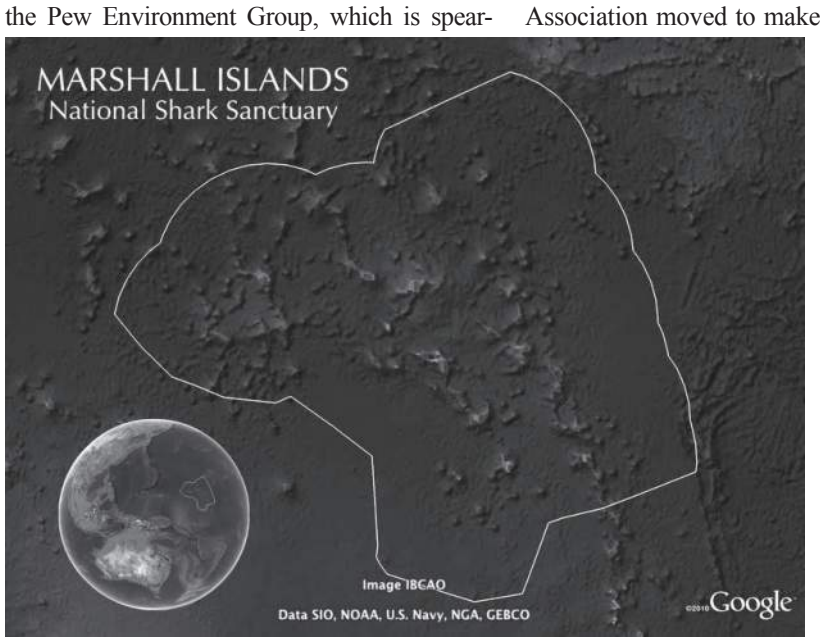
All interested applicants should visit the Department of Commerce website at www.commerce.gov.mp or contact Rabauliman at 664-3002 or email ta.elep2011@commerce.gov.mp to access full copy of the public service announcement. A pre-proposal conference is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 6. ***(Office of the Governor)***

World's largest shark sanctuary declared in Marshalls

» Pew applauds Marshall Islands' leadership

The Republic of the Marshall Islands is now home to the world's largest shark sanctuary. The Nitijela, the Marshallese parliament, unanimously passed legislation this week that ends commercial fishing of sharks in all 1,990,530 square kilometers (768,547 square miles) of the central Pacific country's waters, an ocean area four times the landmass of California.

"We salute the Republic of the Marshall Islands for enacting the strongest legislation to protect sharks that we have seen," said Matt Rand, director of global shark conservation for the Pew Environment Group, which is spearheading efforts to establish shark sanctuaries, where targeted fishing for these species is prohibited. "As leaders recognize the importance of healthy shark populations to our oceans, the momentum for protecting these animals continues to spread across the globe."



Key provisions of the comprehensive Marshall Islands' law include:

■ A complete prohibition on the commercial fishing of sharks as well as the sale of any sharks or shark products. Its zero retention stipulation requires that any shark caught accidentally by fishing vessels must be set free.

■ Large monetary fines, anywhere between US$25,000 to US$200,000, for anyone who is found to be fishing sharks or in possession of shark fins. In addition, violators would be fined the market value of the product in their possession.

■ A ban on the use of wire leaders, a longline fishing gear which is among the most lethal to sharks.

■ A monitoring and enforcement provision that requires all fishing vessels to land their catch at one of the country's ports and bans at sea transfers.

This week's action was initiated in March of this year when the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority issued a moratorium on the shark trade. It was furthered in June, when President Jurelang Zedkaia joined other central Pacific leaders in setting the stage for the creation of a Micronesia Regional Shark Sanctuary, the first regional shark conservation agreement of its kind. In July, the Marshall Islands Mayors Association moved to make this vision a reality by passing a resolution that called on the 24 inhabited atolls throughout the Marshalls, each with its own local government, to enact ordinances prohibiting the sale and trade of sharks or shark fins.

"In passing this bill, there is no greater statement we can make about the importance of sharks to our culture, environment and economy," said Senator Tony deBrum, a representative from Kwajalein Atoll who is a bill cosponsor. "I thank President Jurelang Zedkaia for his vision and support for this effort. Ours may be a small island nation, but our waters are now the biggest place where sharks are protected. We hope other Micronesian leaders will join with us to make good on our collective promise of a regional sanctuary."

In addition to deBrum, Senators Michael Kabua (Kwajalein), Jeban Riklon (Kwajalein), David Kabua (Wotho), Jerakoj Bejang (Lib), and Dennis Momotaro (Mejit) cosponsored the enacted legislation, which also bans the sale, trade and possession of sharks, shark fins, or any other part of shark.

"The Marshall Islands have joined Palau, the Maldives, Honduras, the Bahamas, and Tokelau in delivering the gold standard of protection for ensuring shark survival," Rand said. "We look forward to helping other countries enlist in this cause." ***(PEW)***

Heavy rains flood Aging Office

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office on Aging is seeking the help of the Department of Public Works to prevent the possible collapse of the office's walls due to heavy downpour on the island the past few days.

"I need DPW to reroute the water. You look at the wall and it's buckling already," Aging director Rose Mondala told reporters yesterday.

Mondala said she and staffer David Celis were at the office Monday night to make sure that the office doesn't get inundated.

"Every time there's rain, we have to come here [Aging Office] so we don't get flooded," explained Mondala. "Before, I used to do it alone. Now David helps me."

Mondala

According to Mondala, Monday's downpour resulted in water "coming so hard it was like Niagara Falls."

She said the Aging Office already spent $400 for water blasting services due to the heavy rains, which also caused about a half-foot flood at the front and back sides of their parking lot.

Mondala disclosed that this problem started two years ago. "We didn't think it's going to be like this," she added.

The Aging director said she plans to meet with DPW Secretary Martin Sablan to request his agency's assistance and show him a picture of Monday night's misfortune.

"I already saw him a week ago and told him about our situation in passing," added Mondala.

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY, INC.
is looking for:

Nurse Supervisor (1 position) - $15.00 - $18.00 an hour
- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI RN License.
- Attended a hemodialysis training program and management of hemodialysis inpatient and outpatient care.
- Must hold a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
- At least four years hemodialysis experience and plus three years as a charge nurse in dialysis.
- English Language skills-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension.
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- Certified Nephrology Nurse-(CNN) Preferred.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.
- Flexible with time schedule

Registered Nurse (5 positions) - $10.00 - $15.00 an hour
- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI RN License.
- Attended a hemodialysis training program.
- Must hold a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
- One to five years hemodialysis experience or related field.
- English Language skills-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension.
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- Certified nephrology Nurse (CNN)-Preferred.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.

Licensed Practical Nurse (1 position) - $7.00 – 9.00 an hour
- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI LPN License.
- Attended a hemodialysis training program.
- One to four years hemodialysis experience or related field.
- English Language skills-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension.
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.

Hemodialysis Technician (7 positions) - $7.00 - $9.00 an hour
- Certificate from a Junior College/Technical school in health care related field
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- Three years hemodialysis experience-preferred
- Must be CCHT certified by the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission
- English Language skills-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension.
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.

Building Maintenance & Repair (2 positions) - $7.00 - $9.00 an hour
- Performs a variety of preventive maintenance and repair tasks on the facilities equipment, including some of the more complex repair tasks.
- Performs preventive maintenance and makes routine repairs to electrical, plumbing, and security systems, solar panel maintenance and construction and with solectra inverter experience.
- Performs rough and finish carpentry work and takes the lead on projects such as building and paneling walls and partitions.
- Maintains and repairs various equipment.
- High school graduate or equivalent.
- Prefer skills training in electrical, plumbing and other building trades areas.
- Extensive work experience with hemodialysis/maintenance/plumbing & construction is required.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.
- Must have a valid driver's license.

Water Treatment Technician (2 positions) - $6.00 - $8.00 an hour
- The water treatment technician must be able to perform a number of tasks which may at first glance not appear difficult but require a high degree of knowledge and experience to properly operate and maintain the system. The ideal employee will posses:
- Operational knowledge of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems
- Knowledge of the theory of fluid dynamics
- Understand the mathematical relationships and common formulas of basic water treatment and distribution systems.
- Know the specific operations of the water treatment and distribution systems unique to a dialysis unit.
- Be familiar with infection control of hemodialysis facilities.
- Be familiar with the safety and life safety policies.
- Pass the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency test for certified water treatment and distribution operators level II preferred.
- Understand the plumbing code and plumbing and hemodialysis techniques.
- Be able to demonstrate safe working techniques for working with electricity.
- Be able to demonstrate safe working techniques for working with pressure vessels for hemodialysis.
- Be able to demonstrate proper plumbing and hemodialysis techniques especially when working with pvc.
- Extensive experience of disposal of hazard waste per protocol.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
  Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.
- Solar panel maintenance/construction with solectra inverter experience.
- To accept and perform all other duties as may be assigned.

Interested applicants must submit applications or resume to
Saint Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc. *at Chalan Kiya, Saipan.*

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Members of the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council 2010-2011 pose for a group photo after receiving their certificates of appreciation at the Aging Center yesterday morning. From left, Rosario Ibanez, Teresita Sorroza, Meryalen Conrad, Paula Mereb, Christiana Michael, Jacoba Asuncion, Kimo Jordan, and Alejandra Blas.

Past *man'amko* council officers honored

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office on Aging under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs handed out certificates of appreciation to members of the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council from 2010-2011 yesterday morning.

The certificates, signed by DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao and Aging director Rose Mondala, were given out in recognition of their rendered services and valuable contributions.

The recipients were Teresita Sorroza, Jose Torres, Christiana Michael, Jacoba Asuncion, Paula Mereb, Rosario Ibanez, Alejandra Blas, and Meryalen Conrad.

Of the seven, only Torres was absent. Meanwhile, Sorroza and Michael were the only ones re-elected to the same positions, which are chair and treasurer, respectively.

Aging coordinator Walter Manglona, who presented the certificates, said they recognize outgoing council members but yesterday was the first time that they handed out certificates.

"I think giving out certificates is better because it shows more appreciation for the outgoing members. It's even more special because the director and the secretary signed them," he said.

Mondala concurred and added, "We should do this every time we change officers."

Re-elected chair Sorroza, who was given the chance to deliver remarks to the congregates, reported that the outgoing council left $3,900 in the *man'amko's* bank account. The amount, she said, had already been accounted for through monthly reports submitted to Mondala.

"Thank you everyone for giving me another term, which shows that you still have confidence in me in spite of all problems we had last year," she said.

Sorroza also acknowledged Manglona, the "able" and "very talented" coordinator, and Mondala, the "supportive director" who "talks too much but makes sense."

She encouraged the *man'amko* to contribute their time and resources to help in the activities and programs at the Aging Center.

"Please search yourself a little and ask what you can do other than eating breakfast and lunch and playing games here in the center," said Sorroza.

While she described a majority of the senior citizens as "generous," Sorroza noted that "our hearts are all the same but not all are big."

"Now is the time for you to do it for the good of everyone here and not wait until you're six feet under the ground," she told the congregates.

Sorroza urged the *man'amko* to interact with one another. "Congregate means interact. Talk to people and not just sit down idly. Walk around and talk to people for your betterment."

She also reminded congregates about the importance of respect. "You get respect if you respect yourself and you respect the property of others."

According to Sorroza, the *man'amko* can look forward to upcoming projects and activities that include the digital yearbook, a pageant, and possibly inter- or off-island trips.

Sorroza encouraged congregates to approach any of the council members if they have any concerns or just write a letter addressed to the council if they're too shy.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to Willy Kaitabu! Wishing you many more birthdays and blessings to come! Greetings coming out from your family and friends.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Dan Ray Hernandez, who is celebrating his birthday today, Oct. 5, 2011! Wishing you all the love and good health and more fun with us. We love you! From your kiddos, Daphne Rylee and Keeno!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 2nd birthday to "The Magas," Vinson Mafnas Basa! Wishing you a day of fun and surprises! Lots of love from Grandma Terry, Uncle Shawn, Aunty Vanessa, and Shalei Terrie.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Bird Island beach red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Bird Island beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from the site had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 12 locations on Saipan this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

MHS mid-progress reports out Thursday

Mid-progress report for all Marianas High School students will be released on Thursday, Oct, 6, from 4pm to 6pm. Student will be dismissed on this day at 1pm. All parents must pick up the mid-progress reports from each student's teacher only at the time assigned. There will also be a lot of information sharing about accreditation and changes on the campus. ***(PR)***

Chamber meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its October general membership luncheon meeting today, Oct. 5, 2011, at the Pacific Islands Club. Luncheon will begin at 11:30am and the general membership meeting will begin at noon.

The SCC October meeting keynote speaker will be Bob Jones, decades an investor on Saipan, in Guam and throughout Micronesia. Jones is president and CEO for many local businesses, including Triple J Enterprises and his new venture, Sandy Beach Homes. Also on the meeting's agenda will be a wrap-up presentation on the recently concluded USCIS educational presentations and the just released SCC 2011 Survey of Wages, Salaries and Benefits among Jobs and Organizations in the CNMI.

The lunch will cost $15 for members, $20 for guests and non-members. ***(SCC)***

Kagman High sets Open House night

Kagman High School is inviting all KHS parents to attend our 2nd Annual Open House night on Thursday, Oct. 6, from 5pm to 7pm. This year is an accreditation year and we need parent participation more than ever! The event begins on time so don't be late! Parent orientation is in the cafeteria and starts at 5pm. There will be free refreshments and free raffles at the end of this event. You must be present to win! Students will earn class points if their parent participates. Class points will be added to the coveted Class of the Year title. Students can also earn extra credit in their classes for getting their parents to participate. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 5, 2001

US funding sought for tourism center

A House lawmaker has asked the US Economic Development Administration for funding that would be used to set up a proposed Tourism and Business Training Center at the Northern Marianas College. Rep. William S. Torres wrote EDA representative Gail Fujita to ask her for help in securing EDA funding for the proposed center, which a feasibility study in December 1995 said would cost over $10 million. As an alternative, Torres said that speedy action on his request would enable the NMC to purchase the Korean-owned Riviera Hotel, which the NMC can acquire for approximately $4 million. The hotel can then be transformed into a tourism and business learning center, where its students can learn tourism-related skills.

MVA to launch hospitality initiative

As the CNMI economy continues to reel from the downturn in tourist arrivals, the Marianas Visitors Authority is leading a CNMI-wide initiative to improve visitor hospitality among industry players and the public. The "Hafa Adai Hospitality Program/ WAVE...Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically" campaign is expected to be formally launched next week with a "Developing a Sense of Place" seminar on October 12-13, which will provide free training on visitor hospitality. "More than ever, we need to improve the quality of our service and ensure our visitors are treated royally from the moment they step off the plane until they leave," said MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio.

Oct. 5, 2002

OPM to take over NCLEX review program

The Department of Public Health has placed its NCLEX review program under the office of Personnel Management to avoid having "accountability" problems with concerned staff. "OPM will be responsible in managing (the program) so that proper accountability of time will be taken into consideration and granting of training credits will be given accordingly. All these things will be beneficial to the employees," DPH Secretary James U. Hofschneider said. In a press conference, Hofschneider, together with DPH special assistant Pedro P. Untalan, said OPM's assistance is needed to make the program successful. "Since the OPM handles the CNMI personnel matters, we might as well let them manage this," Untalan said.

Entry of 40 aliens to CNMI busted

Federal and local authorities have busted a scheme to illegally bring in some 40 aliens to the CNMI. The aliens were mostly from Egypt, people privy to the case disclosed. "It [the scheme] was busted. They were caught so they never managed to proceed." Based on initial assessment, the 40 foreign nationals would come in to work for a federal facility. The Department of Labor and Immigration refused to divulge details of the incident, but said that it has began the probe on it. "The department is investigating this issue. We can't comment further pending the investigation," Immigration Director Antonio Sablan said in an interview.

Oct. 5, 2003

Senate majority OKs domestic violence bill

With amendments, the Senate majority on Friday passed legislation that promises to be tougher against perpetrators of violence in the family. House Bill 13-196, which sat in the upper house for about a year, was approved against the backdrop of October as the 2003 CNMI Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Advocates, led by the Domestic Violence Task Force, have been pushing lawmakers to approve the legislation designed to give more teeth to existing anti-domestic violence statutes. With three affirmative votes by Sen. Pete P. Reyes, Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero and Sen. Thomas P. Villagomez and one abstention by Sen. David M. Cing, the upper house passed HB 13-196, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1.

Disabilities Council receives new US grant

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities has received word that the agency's Alternative Financing Mechanism Program's Federal Financial Assistance Application has been approved and awarded $508,392.00 to establish an assistive technology low interest loan program known as "Trankilu" (tranquil). This good news was relayed by Carol Cohen, project officer of the National Institute on disability and Rehabilitation Research, U.S. Department of Education. NIDRR is the administering federal agency of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 and the designated federal grantor agency for all assistive technology projects across the nation and its territories.

Case vs woman in alleged USCIS fee scam dismissed

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday granted the U.S. government's motion to dismiss the criminal complaint against a woman who was arrested in August on charges of mail fraud.

Manglona dismissed the case against Maria Nina Dolot Castro without prejudice. Dismissal without prejudice will allow the prosecution to re-file a new case on the same claim in the future.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto said that the prosecution had determined that there are additional victims that need to be identified before the case is prosecuted and additional investigation needs to be conducted.

In addition, Benedetto said, he has been informed that Castro will be charged in the Superior Court with related crimes.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security had looked into complaints of several persons that their applications and fees for federal immigration benefits were not being filed by a law firm with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service.

As part of the investigation, ICE agents arrested Castro on charges of mail fraud.

Manglona released Castro on a $5,000 unsecured bond.

ICE special agent Clayton T. Statler stated in his affidavit that the Homeland Security Investigations resident agent in charge on Saipan received information from a number of individuals that their applications and fees for federal immigration benefits were not being filed with the USCIS.

The individuals, Statler said, claimed to have used the legal services of attorney Danilo T. Aguilar, who is residing in the CNMI.

Some of the individuals had reportedly complained that Castro, a then employee of Aguilar, was not filing their applications and that she was using the USCIS fees they gave with their applications for her personal use or to pay the fee for applications belonging to other people. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Hardt Eye head nurse certified as a diabetes educator

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With diabetes continuing to ravage CNMI residents, there is a need for more health care professionals whose efforts are focused toward managing the condition of patients afflicted with this disease. Hardt Eye Clinic takes pride in having its head nurse as a vital addition to this pool of diabetes educators.

Helen He is now a Certified Diabetes Educator after passing on her first take the examination of the National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators in June.

Certified Diabetes Educators or CDEs are highly educated health professionals—most commonly registered nurses, physicians, pharmacists or dietitians—with special training and experience in diabetes.

Once they meet qualifications, these health professionals are allowed to take the examination to become certified by the National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators.

He, who graduated with a nursing degree from the Northern Marianas College in 2007 and was the school's valedictorian, believes that prevention is "always" better than treatment.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Hardt Eye Clinic's Dr. Don Hardt and head nurse Helen He, R.N. are the CNMI's only Certified Diabetes Educators after passing the exam administered by the National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators.

"We've seen so many patients suffer from vision loss and other complications even with the best treatment available," said He. "The right changes from early stages can prevent the need for surgery or laser treatment, as well as other problems like heart and kidney disease."

He joins Hardt Eye Clinic's Dr. Don Hardt as the CNMI's only CDEs, enhancing the private clinic's ongoing efforts to "get out in front" of diabetes.

Hardt, who passed the CDE exam in December 2010, said that He spent a lot of her time concentrating on diabetes education in the last few years.

"We are so proud of Helen for this major accomplishment, but we are even more proud of the help she has been providing to our diabetic patients," said Hardt. "We have seen many patients turn their lives around after working with Helen."

Hardt recounted how he used to send his patients to the Commonwealth Health Center for diabetes education.

When the dietitian left and diabetes education was no longer available, Hardt decided to launch their own program for diabetes patients, many of whom suffer from complications such as blindness, foot amputations, heart disease, strokes, and kidney failure—all of which can be avoided.

"With the combination of good medication and better lifestyle choices, most people with diabetes can live a long, healthy life without major complications. We work together with the primary care doctor to enhance the overall care," said Hardt.

According to He, a common misconception about diabetes education is that it's similar to listening to a lecture.

But diabetes education, He said, is "based on the need and interests of each patient" to enable them to find their "normal routine" with diabetes management.

"At Hardt Eye Clinic we follow the standards set forth by the American Diabetes Association. We want to help the patient and support them in making better lifestyle choices. We want to help solve problems and communicate with their entire healthcare team so that everyone is on board with the patient's road to success," said He.

Hardt Eye Clinic also provides free transportation for patients who want to know more about diabetes education, which is open to anyone even if they receive eye care elsewhere.

For more information about the program, call 235-2030.

Guam pharmaceutical wholesaler sued for sexual harassment

HAGATNA, Guam—MD Wholesale, Guam and Micronesia's leading pharmaceutical drug and products wholesaler, violated federal law by subjecting a class of women to sexual harassment, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission charged in a lawsuit it filed yesterday.

According to the EEOC's suit, female employees at MD Wholesale's facility in Tamuning, Guam were the targets of unwelcome propositions and touching of a sexual nature by a management official since at least 2008. The manager allegedly made unwelcome sexual advances toward female employees, frequently made vulgar sexual remarks, and on several occasions engaged in highly offensive physical touching of a sexual nature. Although the harassment was reported to an assistant manager, MD Wholesale failed to take effective corrective measures. Prior to the filing of the EEOC charge, MD Wholesale had no policy or provisions in place to properly address sexual harassment issues, according to the federal agency.

Sexual harassment violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The EEOC filed suit in U.S. District Court, District of Guam (EEOC v. Mariano Prime LLC dba MD Wholesale, Case No. 11-00029) after first attempting to reach a pre-litigation settlement through its conciliation process. The EEOC's suit seeks compensatory and punitive damages on behalf of the class, along with changes to company policies and practices intended to prevent future instances of discrimination at MD Wholesale.

"Employers cannot take a back seat to unwanted harassment in the workplace," said Anna Y. Park, regional attorney for the EEOC's Los Angeles District Office, which has jurisdiction over Guam. "Workers have the right to a harassment-free working environment, and employers must take appropriate measures to ensure that civil rights abuses cease."

Timothy Riera, local director for the EEOC's Honolulu Local Office, which has jurisdiction over Guam, added, "The EEOC is committed to combating workplace discrimination and harassment in the Pacific. Employers who fail to implement policies and practices to prevent and to address potential issues are placing their companies at risk." ***(EEOC)***

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-12-2310

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

To Provide Local Public Relations and Media Services

Closing Date: October 24, 2011 Time: 2:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to: The Division of Procurement & Supply

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work and application for local preference at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Thursday and 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Non-Austerity Fridays, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, P&S

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

LOREN A. SUTTON, ESQ.
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P.O. Box 520030 Tinian MP 96952
Phone: (670) 433-0419/235-8060
Fax: (670) 235-8070
Co-Counsel for Petitioner

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In re the Matter of the Appointment of a General Guardian for CODY JOSUA NAGAZAWA LEON a minor child dob: 03 June 2001	Case No.: 11-0334 NOTICE RE PETITION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL GUARDIAN Date: October 17, 2001 Time: 1:30 p.m. Judge: Inos
By: William James and Neito Keju Bezzant	

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC and ANY PERSON WITH INTEREST:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that WILLIAM JAMES and NEITO KEJU BEZZANT, have filed herein their Petition praying to be appointed as General Guardian of the above named minor child and that a hearing thereon is set for October 17, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. in the Courtroom of the Honorable Associate Judge Perry Inos at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Susupe, Saipan.

All interested persons are hereby invited to appear at the time and place set for said hearing and show cause, if any they have, why the Petition should not be granted.

Reference is hereby made to the said Petition, which may be viewed at the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court

Dated this 3rd day of October 2011.

/s/ Loren A. Sutton (F0179)

Juan Kaipat Taitano
P.O. Box 10005 PMB 218
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 287-2214

Pro se,

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JUAN KAIPAT TAITANO, Petitioner, vs. **SRI PAYAKMEAK TAITANO,** Respondent.	**FCD-DI-CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0357** **SUMMONS**

TO: Sri Payakmeak Taitano

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to **Juan Kaipat Taitano** whose address is **P.O. Box 10005 PMB 218 Saipan, MP 96950** as soon as practical after filling your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of the Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 16th day of August, 2011.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Theresita Paulis
P.O. Box 10003
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 233-4323

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR: TELINAMAE LYNN OVENY MALITY Minor Child, **by THERESITA ALDAN PAULIS** Petitioner	**FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 11 - 0414** **NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Guardianship for the above-named minor child by Theresita Paulis Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, on the 20th day of October, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. or as soon as thereafter

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School

Is requesting applicants for:

Accountant / Business Manager (1)
- Minimum 5 years experience in Seventh-day Adventist School;
- Minimum 5 years experience in a managerial capacity;
- Bachelor's degree in accounting;
- Must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church;
- Must be willing to adhere to all school policies and procedures;
- Knowledge in Quickbooks accounting software preferred;
- Minimum 2 years work experience in a Christian school;

Elementary Teachers (2)
- Bachelor's degree required;
- Prefer 2 years elementary teaching experience;
- Professional teacher certification preferred;
- Emphasis in English and / or emphasis in Mathematics;
- Must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church;
- Must be willing to adhere to all school policies and procedures;
- Minimum 2 years teaching experience in a Christian school

Pre-School Teachers (3)
- Bachelor's degree required;
- 2 Years of early childhood teaching experience required;
- Must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church;
- Must be willing to adhere to all school policies and procedures;
- Minimum 2 years teaching experience in a Christian school

Pre-School Assistant Teacher
- Minimum 2 Years of college required;
- 2 Years of early childhood classroom teaching experience required;
- Must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church;
- Must be willing to adhere to all school policies and procedures;

Interested applicants may contact Michael Berglund
via email at principal@saipansdaschool.org

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Congress faces institutional collapse

The federal government ended the fiscal year Friday with Congress every bit as divided and as close to paralysis as it was when bickering over deficits nearly shut down operations a few weeks ago.

Apparently, some members didn't get the word that voters were seriously turned off by that partisan spectacle because they were back at it again in the last few days with yet another pointless fight over the budget. To avoid bringing government operations to a halt, they devised a convoluted, short-term deal on spending that kept the doors open—for a few weeks.

This time, the issue was how to provide $3.65 billion in proposed disaster relief to pay for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's response to this year's natural disasters. The Republican-led House insisted that $1.5 billion of this amount be offset by cutting federal grants supporting fuel-efficient vehicles. The Democratic majority Senate and White House balked at having to shortchange a program they favor—particularly in a fragile economy—to satisfy unprecedented demands that emergency disaster funding be offset somewhere else in the budget.

In the end, fancy pencilwork by government accountants stretched FEMA's money through the end of the fiscal year to keep the agency in operation until Friday. No offset would be required when the new fiscal year kicked in Saturday. That gimmick allowed the Senate to pass an overall temporary spending bill to fund FEMA and the rest of the government through Nov. 18 without having to cut any existing program.

But then what—another confrontation that threatens a shutdown?

The episode does not bode well for coming legislative tussles that will require negotiations and compromise, the lubricant of the legislative machinery. The needless mini-drama revealed that Congress remains on the verge of institutional collapse and incapable of resolving fundamental issues.

Funding government in a series of short-term fixes is no way to run the government of the world's biggest industrial democracy.

It sets up repeated legislative confrontations, makes uncertainty a permanent feature of the economy and leads to repeated confrontations that threaten to stop government operations. If every dispute over relatively small issues turns into a big deal, there is no way to agree on the truly important questions.

The biggest is how to put the government on a sound fiscal footing without undermining the weak recovery. A congressional super-committee is supposed to come up with a plan for $1.2 trillion in reductions over 10 years by mid-November, but if the dispute over FEMA is any guide, lawmakers are in no mood to make the hard decisions—and, yes, compromises will be required.

Standing on principle—demanding that government reduce spending—is laudable. But when principle becomes a cover for obstructionism, it becomes counter-productive.

The priority should be to bolster the weak economic recovery. Virtually every candidate in Congress ran on a platform of "jobs, jobs, jobs" last year, but lawmakers now seem too caught up in spending disputes to focus on what's important to the voters.

Stopgap funding measures and repeated shutdown crises won't restore a sound economy and put America back in firm control of its destiny. If the country is in for another year of legislative gridlock, the only answer may be through the ballot box. Weary Americans shouldn't have to wait that long.

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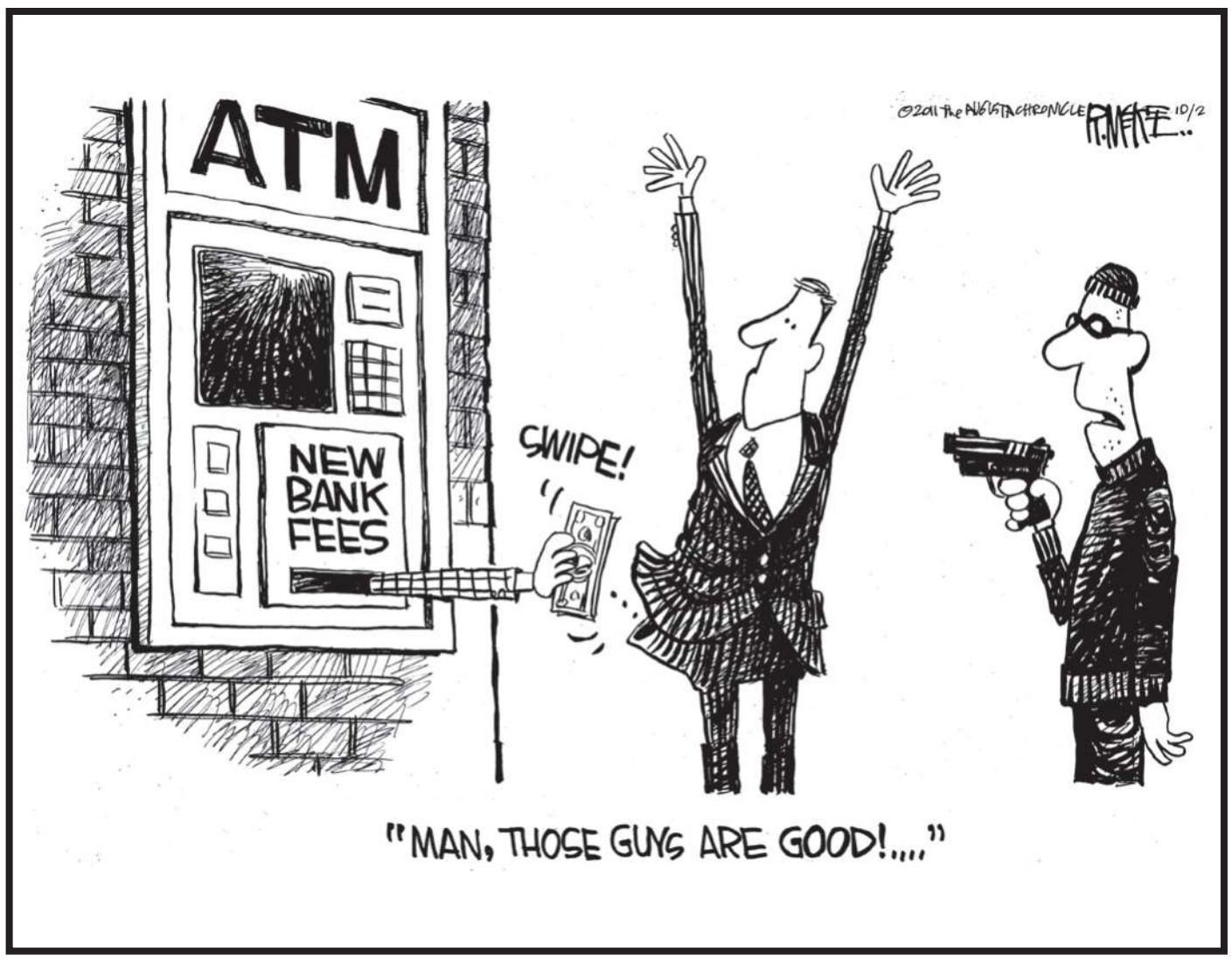


As world turned, we became our own worst enemies

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.*

These days, any assessment of American foreign policy seems to circle back to whether we can get our act together at home.

This country cannot command respect overseas when its domestic politicians act like irresponsible children. The world looks agog at our paralyzed Congress. A sagging superpower unable to confront the challenges that face it.

Given this sad state of the union, I was drawn to the title of a new book by uber-pundit Thomas L. Friedman and noted political scientist Michael Mandelbaum: *That Used to Be Us: How America Fell Behind in the World It Invented and How We Can Come Back.*

Sadly, the book doesn't deliver on the last part of the title. Yet it bluntly describes what has sent us into slow but steady decline.

If there's one word to take away from this book it is adaptation. When the Cold War ended, the United States basked in its "victorious" role as sole superpower. But, say the authors, we failed to grasp that communism's end dramatically accelerated the process of globalization.

Other countries, notably China, emulated our past open-market success. They adapted to the new world and we didn't. "We relaxed, underinvested, and lived in the moment just when we needed to study harder, save more, rebuild our infrastructure" and attract more, not less, skilled immigrants. As Friedman and Mandelbaum write: "The failure to understand that we were living in a new world, and to adapt to it was a colossal and costly American mistake."

The consequences of this miscalculation are stunning. Just a few:

On infrastructure: As China builds modern roads, rail and airports all over its vast landmass, our roads, bridges, water systems and electric grids have eroded from lack of investment. In 2009, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave America a D grade on 15 categories of infrastructure.

On education: As global competition demands ever higher educational skills, we are producing a permanent underclass of youths without a high school education. According to Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, "Currently, about one-fourth of ninth graders fail to graduate high school within four years." Of the major industrialized countries, only Mexico, Spain, Turkey, and New Zealand have higher dropout rates than the United States.

On immigration: As politicians whip up hysteria on this issue, we are discouraging talented immigrants who are "critical to our long-term economic health." According to the Indian-born U.S. immigration scholar Vivek Wadhwa, 52 percent of Silicon Valley's tech companies were started by immigrants, who also contributed to 25 percent of U.S. global patents. Immigrants make up 24 percent of science and engineering workers with bachelor's degrees in this country, and 47 percent of those with doctorates.

Our failure to welcome talented immigrants eats away at our ability to keep our competitive edge. Meantime, our own students score below the international average in comparative tests of math and science.

Of course, our bipartisan run-up of debt over the past decade (destroying the hefty surplus built up under President Bill Clinton) compounds all these problems. The authors decry the political paralysis that blocks any realistic approach to the deficit.

But this book reaffirms my belief that our core problem is much deeper than the political impasse on Capitol Hill.

"The American people still have not fully understood the world we are living in," Friedman and Mandelbaum write. Most Americans understand something has gone deeply wrong with the country. But they don't grasp the causes of our decline—or how to reverse it.

Irresponsible politicians offer dangerous bromides such as "Take back our country," with its racist, anti-immigration tones. They rail against "big government" as if government wasn't essential to shaping change.

Yet this country has deep structural problems that won't be resolved by calls for a return to past glories. These problems cannot be addressed until the public is rallied and clearly told why the country is declining. None of our politicians seem equal to the task.

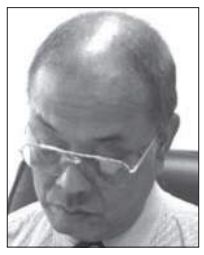
President Obama hasn't managed to galvanize the nation. Republicans are too busy denouncing Obama, science—and taxes. The Tea Party is a dangerous distraction. And the media are so fragmented they only add to the cacophony.

Friedman and Mandelbaum have given up on both major parties and call for a third party of the "radical center" that would focus public attention on the real crises we face. That scenario seems unlikely—and insufficient.

Unless a leader arises—from whatever party—who tells Americans the truth and can rally them 'round—the downward slide will continue. "If we were behaving like our parents' generation we'd get this done," says Mandelbaum. But we're not.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Regurgitating shortsightedness



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Delrosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

Over the last 33 years, our men of wisdom have piled debt obligations to the once robust Retirement Fund. Hell, we were happily singing and swinging to the reggae tune, "Don't worry, be happy...."

The Fund loaned $9 million to the Judiciary to build its facility, took in recipients who never contributed to the Fund; took in 3 percent per year for undeserving legislators; formulated a failed housing program; took in grandchildren of retirees; paid for purposeless trips abroad for Fund board members; paid boilerplate fees of nearly a million to a team of legal eagles; paid heftily to Fund managers who ran away when the ship it's navigating was ready to turn belly up.

One fine day in recent past we woke up to find the Fund is now on a steady march toward Bankruptcy Cliff. So there's a dire need to change our tune hoping the problem would disappear. It won't and any hopeful deferment isn't going to stop the tsunami of a definite disaster ahead. But it must have been necessary punditry to invoke the habitual passing of the buck to innocent bystanders so the administration could insulate itself from a looming disaster.

Too, it won't absolve either side of the street deferring to fully scripted concoctions, hoping retirees would acquiesce being victimized by a negligent leadership caught snoozing on the job. Sorry! We're not ready to join your choir now singing, "Make the world go away". We're not as stupid as we look!

■ ■ ■ ■

Empty politics vs federal law

Had we admitted the irreversible shift in control over immigration, the sorrowful and chaotic mess won't pile up taller than the Puerto Rico Dump.

But politicians decided to do their one last rain dance raising the hopes of concerned folks that there's an answer up ahead.

None!

Folks, we've lost it under U.S. Pubic Law 110-229. I don't know what it is in the law that local leadership has difficulty understanding. Definitely, it didn't leave any room granting the Legislature local statutory dictates. There's nothing up that alley and not after we've had our chance to make a difference we've treated with inconsequence. Here now is the trophy of reluctance to acknowledge the effective takeover of immigration by the feds.

We should have been upfront by telling it like it is so affected folks can begin planning their fate as they move on. Here's what federal immigration says about children born of foreign nationals, be it here or elsewhere in the country:

"The 'subject to the jurisdiction' provision must therefore require something in addition to mere birth on U.S. soil. The language of the 1866 Civil Rights Act, from which the Citizenship Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment was derived, provides the key to its meaning. The 1866 Act provides: "All persons born in the United States, and not subject to any foreign power, excluding Indians not taxed, are hereby declared to be citizens of the United States."[3]

More specifically, "As this formulation makes clear, any child born on U.S. soil to parents who were temporary visitors to this country and who, as a result of the foreign citizenship of the child's parents, remained a citizen or subject of the parents' home country was not entitled to claim the birthright citizenship provided by the 1866 Act."

It would have done everyone a whale of good had we reviewed and understood the historical intent of the 14th Amendment from the beginning. Therein lies the genesis of an amendment we've ignored all along. The only way out is the traditional approach is by applying in regional centers of USCIS or embassies for U.S. citizenship. There's no solid answer from our half-cocked policy-makers.

■ ■ ■ ■

It is also well and good to take a retreat to study our cards in our relationship with our benefactors in D.C. Washington has the purse, the power and definitely the upper hand. It's foolhardy to even think for a moment that we could wage a David and Goliath war against Uncle Sam. We'd all be singing White Christmas year-round when everything around us is parched brown.

■ ■ ■ ■

The labor requirement of the NMI can no longer be left to languish in ad hoc policy decisions. U.S. Department of Interior's OIA is preparing a study that includes human resource development. It pays to proactively partake in this venture to really work under an organized plan to meet current and future labor requirements here. For instance, it requires defining the future of these isles.

We can't lamely and blindly declare that hi-tech industry is the next best venture. That would be a fallacy. Step back and look at our basic infrastructure, specifically the syllabus of our educational institutions. Is it relevant to support the decision to embrace a hi-tech industry? Are we producing sufficient engineers annually to support it? This is why we must learn to plan seriously. Ad hoc planning must go! Have a good one this weekend. Si JR.

This October, 'fall' for a dog from a shelter

By Lindsay Pollard-Post
PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

I walk my dog, Pete, every day, and people are always stopping us to ask me, "Where did you get your dog?" Pete looks like a common breed, so I guess many people just assume that I bought him from a breeder. It's fun to see the surprise on their faces when I smile and say that Pete is a mutt and I adopted him from the local animal shelter.

October is "Adopt a Shelter Dog" Month, and for people who are ready to commit to caring for a canine companion, I can say from experience that there is no better place to find your new best friend than a shelter or rescue group. I wasn't sure what to expect when my husband and I adopted Pete almost eight years ago, but now I know that we will never look anywhere other than a shelter for our animal family members.

At shelters, you will find all kinds of dogs. We were thrilled when, on our very first visit, we found a dog who had all the qualities that we were hoping for in a canine companion: large size, long hair and lots of energy. Of course, if we had wanted a small, short-haired dog who loves to snuggle, the shelter had plenty of dogs who would have fit the bill. As we walked past cage after cage, dogs of all ages, personalities and sizes—mutts and purebreds alike—poked their noses through the bars, wagged their tails and watched us with pleading eyes, as if to say, "Please pick me!"

I would have taken every one of those sweet dogs home if I could have, but with the help of the shelter's adoption counselor, we were able to narrow down our decision. She walked us through each step of the process, asked us questions and told us about Pete's personality and background to help ensure that our lifestyle, activity level and experience would make us a good fit. Then she showed us to a private visiting room and gave us plenty of time to get to know our potential new family member one-on-one.

It didn't take long to fall in love with Pete, and after considering the decision for a day or two (adopting is a lifelong commitment, after all!) we signed the papers to make him a part of our family. For a nominal adoption fee—hundreds less than what breeders typically charge—our new addition came home neutered, vaccinated, dewormed and microchipped. The elated shelter staffers hugged and kissed Pete goodbye and offered us follow-up support and classes to ensure that his transition to a new home would be a success.

Pete has become such an important part of our life that it's difficult to think about what might have happened if we had not adopted him. Every year, open-admission shelters across the country are forced to euthanize up to 4 million dogs and cats. Breeders, pet stores and people who don't have their animals sterilized put shelter workers in this heartbreaking position because they bring more animals into a world that is already tragically short on good homes.

But you can help change that this October, by ensuring that your animal companions are sterilized and, if you are ready, opening your heart and home to one of the many lovable dogs waiting in a shelter. Just get ready to have lots of people ask you where you found that smart, sweet, one-of-a-kind dog of yours.

Lindsay Pollard-Post is a staff writer for The PETA Foundation.

Letter to the Editor

Overlooking the obvious

Regarding the poor MVA website brought to our attention by an alert reader of your publication, I suddenly remembered a story told to me by an elderly person that gives some credence to our indifference at MVA. The story told was about a professional criminal being held in a holding room at the local precinct, awaiting disposition for a crime committed and the offender is being readied for court proceedings. All the time being wasted by the detective and prosecuting attorney meant that the criminal in the holding jail would have to be processed a little bit longer than usual. It turned out that the professional criminal was also busy on a plan to escape the prison walls. You can imagine how the skillful criminal would go about with this type of thinking. All escape route and all spaces within the four corners of the holding cell, like the barred window, were closely examined for a way out. But all his efforts failed. It turned out that when it was time to remove the criminal from the holding jail, the correction officer who came over to remove the subject from the holding cell simply opened the jail's door without a key and escorted the criminal for the scheduled court hearing that day. The moral of this parable is, "People with false pretenses and good intention do always overlook the obvious."

How does this relate to the MVA? I know that your reader who brought this up in your letter-to-the-editor section is mad and furious about the lack of simple information technology at the MVA. But certainly, there is more to this than just lacking IT. It boils down to capacity makeup and idiosyncrasy of the person running the place. For this, I will leave it for your intelligent readers to fill in the blanks and enjoy the rest of the amusement, including whether we would see some actions by the bigwigs who may also be failing to see the obvious. In the private sector, unless you own a majority stock of the company and even in that situation, the top of the chain would have no way to challenge any adverse job action a long time ago. What do you think?

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Help Rota help itself

The Rota East Harbor project is being explored due to the fact that the West Harbor is very much inadequate right now and into the future. The mayor of Rota and the Rota leadership want to jumpstart Rota's economy by looking for a means to enable larger vessels to call port.

Even by following the previous master plan, the existing West Harbor will not accomplish that task without shelling out over $60 million, according to the latest master plan. Additionally, an engineer who was involved with the latest master plan agreed that the East Harbor as opposed to the West Harbor should be further explored.

If we look at a map of Rota from Google Earth and compare it with the neighboring islands of Guam, Tinian, and Saipan with respect to harbor location, one with common sense will conclude that the best location for a commercial port will be at the East Harbor. East Harbor is calm 95 percent of the year. The only time East Harbor experiences rough seas is when there is a typhoon or a storm approaching but then again that period is for not more that five days at a time. Try using Google Earth and see for yourself, then if your mind is clear enough then you should conclude that East Harbor is the best location.

The Rota community deserves a better port for its people. The Rota leadership is correct in exploring what is best for Rota. Those of you out there should not decide what is best for Rota. The people of Rota can do that. This is one way we can grow our economy and not be constantly reminded that we are not contributing enough to the CNMI's coffers. We are trying to jumpstart our economy and we need a better port to do that. We are not asking for CIP funds to do this; we are working with alternative financing on this. Allow us to grow and contribute, stop choking us. Please take those hands off-our throat. I assure you we will contribute.

At present, there is a good amount of scrap metal right at the West Harbor waiting for a barge to haul it away to a recycling facility off-island. The problem, the barge cannot call port due to the size of the port and its entrance. We need a larger port now and for our future generation. Remember, many of our citizens are leaving. We need to grow our economy in order to create jobs and business opportunity for our citizens to stay and for those off-island to return. We need to work for each other, not against each other.

Frank M. Atalig
Sinapalo 1 Rota

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

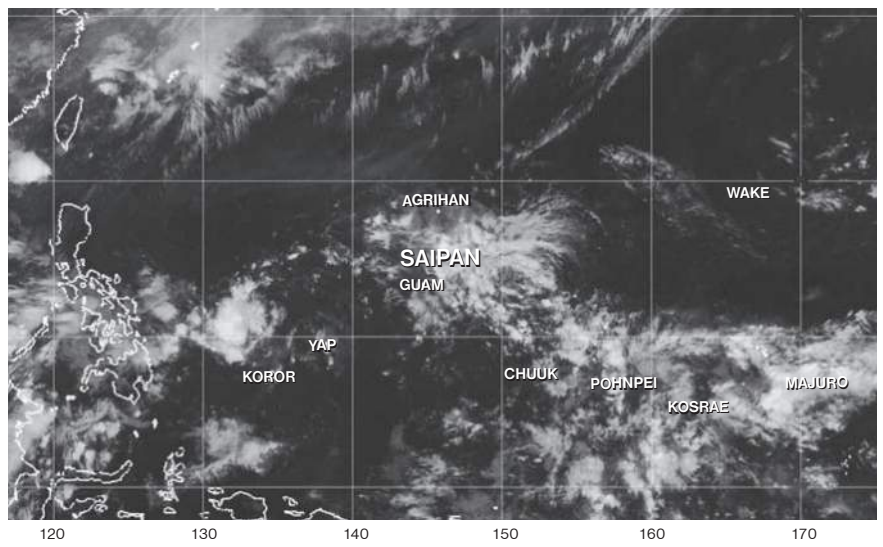
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Palau	Rain	▲85	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲80	▼75
Kosrae	Rain	▲82	▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲81	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲63	▼56
Beijing	Sunny	▲79	▼52
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲83	▼76
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼76
London	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼59
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼57
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲71	▼56
Miami	Showers	▲87	▼75
New York	Showers	▲66	▼54
Osaka	Showers	▲72	▼66
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼57
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼61
Rome	Sunny	▲85	▼60
Salem	Showers	▲61	▼48
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼57
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼57
Tokyo	Rain	▲68	▼65
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼53

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends from Luzon to 14N130E through a circulation centered north of Palau at 12N135E to 6N145E to 4N150E to end near 6N164E. A surface trough extends from the circulation to 15N142E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the monsoon trough are found north of Palau and Yap between 8N and 14N from 130E to 135E and over Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae states between the equator and 10N from 153E to 163E. An upper-level trough extends from an upper-level low located near 24N173E to 23N159E to near the Marianas at 16N147E. Low-level convergence east of the surface trough mentioned above combined with upper-level divergence is producing an area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of the Marianas between 10N and 18N from 145E to 153E. A surface trough extends from 4N172E to 12N179E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough cover much of the Marshall Islands between the equator and 10N from 163E to 180. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers south of Koror between 1N and 4N from 130E to 136E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:23 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
8:14 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
3:51 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:20 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	6:01 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:24 PM	12:13 AM
Thursday	2:09 PM	1:07 AM
Friday	2:49 PM	1:59 AM
Saturday	3:28 PM	2:49 AM
Sunday	4:04 PM	3:37 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 5, 2011

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:20am	2:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:25am	5:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05070	4:25am	5:15am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05064	4:25am	6:00am	1, 5 via ROP
C05068	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C05068	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K386	5:50pm	6:40pm	3, 4, 7
C05078	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C05072	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily
5K384	7:20am	8:10am	2, 6
5K382	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)			
5K212	8:20am	10:55am	4, 7
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:05am	8:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C05076/183	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C05072/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
5K168	8:15am	11:25pm	1, 5
C05076/179	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:30am	6:00am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:20am	3:55am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:20am	3:55am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C05079	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
5K387	6:30am	7:20am	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
5K383	6:30pm	7:20pm	2, 6
NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN			
5K213	11:55am	4:25pm	4, 7
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:00pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:35pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:35pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0192/5071	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C05071	10:00pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
PR110/C05071	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
C0184/5071	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
C0184/5071	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C0184/5071	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
5K169	1:00pm	8:05pm	1, 5
C0180/5071	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Anti-Wall Street protests spread nationwide

NEW YORK (AP)—Protests against Wall Street spread across the country Monday as demonstrators marched on Federal Reserve banks and camped out in parks from Los Angeles to Portland, Maine, in a show of anger over the wobbly economy and what they see as corporate greed.

In Manhattan, hundreds of protesters dressed as corporate zombies in white face paint lurched past the New York Stock Exchange clutching fistfuls of fake money. In Chicago, demonstrators pounded drums in the city's financial district. Others pitched tents or waved protest signs at passing cars in Boston, St. Louis and Kansas City, Mo.

The arrests of 700 protesters on the Brooklyn Bridge over the weekend galvanized a slice of discontented America, from college students worried about their job prospects to middle-age workers who have been recently laid off.

AP

Protesters from Occupy Wall Street walk past the New York Stock Exchange dressed as corporate zombies Monday, Oct. 3, 2011, in New York.

Some protesters likened themselves to the tea party movement—but with a liberal bent—or to the Arab Spring demonstrators who brought down their rulers in the Middle East.

"I've felt this way for a long time. I've really just kind of been waiting for a movement to come along that I thought would last and have some resonation within the community," said Steven Harris, a laid-off truck driver in Kansas City.

Harris and about 20 other people were camped out in a park across the street from the Kansas City Federal Reserve building, their site strewn with sleeping bags, clothes and handmade signs. Some passing drivers honked in support.

The Occupy Wall Street protests started on Sept. 17 with a few dozen demonstrators who tried to pitch tents in front of the New York Stock Exchange. Since then, hundreds have set up camp in a park nearby and have become increasingly organized, lining up medical aid and legal help and printing their own newspaper, the Occupied Wall Street Journal.

About 100 demonstrators were arrested on Sept. 24 and some were pepper-sprayed. On Saturday police arrested 700 on charges of disorderly conduct and blocking a public street as they tried to march over the Brooklyn Bridge. Police said they took five more protesters into custody on Monday, though it was unclear whether they had been charged with any crime.

Wiljago Cook, of Oakland, Calif., who joined the New York protest on the first day, said she was shocked by the arrests.

"Exposing police brutality wasn't even really on my agenda, but my eyes have been opened," she said. She vowed to stay in New York "as long as it seems useful."

City bus drivers sued the New York Police Department on Monday for commandeering their buses and making them drive to the Brooklyn Bridge on Saturday to pick up detained protesters.

Eurozone struggles to reassure markets

LUXEMBOURG (AP)—The eurozone's finance chiefs indicated early Tuesday that Greece will get a loan installment it needs to keep paying its bills, even after Athens admitted that it would not be able cut its budget deficit as much as it had promised in return for help.

Fears have been growing that Greece, despite billions of euros in rescue loans, will eventually have to default on its massive debts, rocking the global economy as it is still struggling to recover from recession.

"We had no one advocating a default for Greece. Everything will be done to avoid that and it will be avoided," Jean-Claude Juncker, the Luxembourg prime minister who also chairs the meetings of eurozone finance ministers, said after talks that ran late into the night.

Juncker said the other ministers would decide on the payment of the euro8 billion ($10.8 billion) slice of its first euro110 billion bailout "in the course of October," adding that the country would be able to meet its financial obligations as long as it receives the money in November.

That contradicted earlier statements from the Greek government, which has said that it would be forced to stop paying salaries and pensions if it doesn't get the payment by mid-October.

The financial leaders of the 17-country eurozone were under strong pressure to provide solutions to the currency union's worsening debt crisis, after markets around the world plunged Monday. However, despite the assurances on Greece, it was also clear that further challenges lay ahead and the euro dropped after the news conference, trading down 1.3 percent against the dollar.

Greece said Sunday that it will run a deficit of 8.5 percent of economic output, or euro18.69 billion ($25.2 billion), this year—far above the promised euro17.1 billion ($23.1 billion).

The main concerns among economists is that Greece will not be able to fully repay its bonds, triggering steep losses for banks across Europe and spreading the debt crisis to large economies like Italy and Spain that are too big to be bailed out.

Even though he ruled out a Greek default, Juncker added to those concerns, saying that the contribution of banks and other private investors to a second, euro109 billion rescue package for Greece may have to be re-evaluated in light of the worsening economic conditions in the country.

Apple expected to unveil new iPhone Tuesday

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Apple fans are amped. The computer and gadget maker is expected to announce a new, more powerful version of its wildly popular smartphone this week—more than a year after it unveiled the iPhone 4.

Last week, Apple Inc. e-mailed invitations to a media event at its headquarters in Cupertino on Tuesday morning. The invite says "let's talk iPhone," implying the normally secretive company intends to show off the latest version of the device. In the past, Apple has typically introduced a new iPhone during the summer, but this year it was expected to hold off until the fall.

It has been 15 months since Apple began selling the iPhone 4 last June. The first iPhone was revealed in 2007, and the phone's signature slick looks, high-resolution screen and intuitive software made it incredibly popular from the start (the rollout of Apple's iTunes App Store in 2008 helped, too). In addition to gaining millions of fans over the years—39 million iPhones were sold just between January and the end of June—the iPhone and its large App Store have sparked fierce competition from smartphone makers such as those using Google Inc.'s Android software, which was first rolled out in 2008.

Beyond the iPhone itself, the Tuesday event is anticipated as Apple's first major product unveiling in years that won't be led by Steve Jobs, who resigned from the CEO post in August after being out on indefinite medical leave since January. The Apple co-founder is now its executive chairman. And though Jobs did emerge from medical leave twice this year to present Apple's innovations—most recently in June to show off its new mobile software and iCloud content storage service—his successor, Tim Cook, is expected to take the lead this time.

Though not nearly as recognizable as Jobs, Cook, formerly Apple's chief operating officer, has been running Apple since January. For years, he has been in charge of Apple's day-to-day operations, and he has long been seen as the natural successor. He also served as Apple's leader for two months in 2004 while Jobs battled cancer and again for five-and-a-half months in 2009 when Jobs received a liver transplant.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil drops to lowest price since 2010

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil started the final quarter of 2011 with a whimper. The benchmark price dropped below $78 per barrel to its lowest level in more than a year, as fears of another recession grew. Oil fell along with broad declines on Wall Street: The Dow Jones industrial average, the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq composite were each down about 2 percent. Investors are concerned about a pair of recent announcements that point to weaker demand and even lower energy prices this year. Greece, at the center of the European debt crisis, said over the weekend that it will miss its lower spending targets despite severe cost-cutting. And China's manufacturing sector appeared to cool off in September.

US auto sales up in September on big trucks

DETROIT (AP)—U.S. buyers shrugged off economic worries and snapped up SUVs and pickups last month, surprising the auto industry and raising hopes that a bumpy year will end on a high note. Big trucks typically sell when the housing market and construction industry are strong, gas prices are low and consumer confidence is high. None of those was true in September. The economy remains weak, confidence is shaky and a gallon of gas prices cost nearly $1 per more than in September 2010.

Aussie PM says mining boom likely to be sustained

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's mining boom fueled by Chinese demand, which kept the economy out of recession during the global financial crisis, "is likely to be sustained for a very long period," Prime Minister Julia Gillard said Tuesday. Gillard told a tax summit at Parliament House that the current boom in exports of iron ore and coal is different from previous cycles in Australian history that inevitably ended in busts. "We are in a different economic phase and we shouldn't let the language of 'boom' deceive us," Gillard said.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
10,655.30	1,099.23	2,335.83
-258.08	-32.19	-79.57
-2.36%	-2.85%	-3.29%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0514	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7856	Philippine Peso	44.0450
British Pound	0.6471	Indian Rupee	49.2650	Singapore Dollar	1.3106
Canadian Dollar	1.0528	Indonesian Rupiah	8,940.0	South Korean Won	1,191.845
Chinese Yuan	6.3851	Japanese Yen	76.6650	Swiss Franc	0.9195
Euro	0.7568	Malaysian Ringgit	3.2046	Taiwan Dollar	30.6500
		New Zealand Dollar	1.3208	Thailand Baht	31.1600

Nation

Scientist wins Nobel 3 days after cancer death

NEW YORK (AP)—Ralph Steinman, a pioneer in understanding how cells fight disease, tried to help his own immune system thwart his pancreatic cancer.

Steinman survived until Friday. Three days later, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for medicine.

The Nobel committee, unaware of his death, announced the award Monday in Stockholm. Steinman's employer, Rockefeller University in New York, learned of his death after the Nobel announcement.

Steinman's wife, Claudia, said the family had planned to disclose his death Monday—only to discover an email to his cellphone from the Nobel committee.

Friends and colleagues were stunned by his death.

"For the last five years, I've gotten up in the morning of the Nobel Prize announcement and rushed to the computer to see his name," said Olivera J. Finn of the University of Pittsburgh.

"And this morning I saw it, and I just totally shrieked with joy," she said. Then she heard the bad news from a friend in Singapore.

AP

Family members of Nobel prize winner Ralph Steinman walk in front of a picture of Steinman during a ceremony honoring him at Rockefeller University in New York, Monday, Oct. 3, 2011.

"I have been this whole morning ... out of breath like somebody punched me in the stomach," Finn said.

Experts disagree whether Steinman's research helped him live for 4 1/2 years after he was diagnosed. A colleague in his lab thinks it did. The odds of making it even a year with his type of cancer are less than 5 percent.

Nobel officials said they believed it was the first time that a laureate had died before the announcement without the committee's knowledge.

"It is incredibly sad news," said Nobel Foundation chairman Lars Heikensten. "We can only regret that he didn't have the chance to receive the news he had won the Nobel Prize. Our thoughts are now with his family."

Since 1974, the Nobel statutes don't allow posthumous awards unless a laureate dies after the announcement but before the Dec. 10 award ceremony. That happened in 1996 when economics winner William Vickrey died a few days after the announcement.

However, the committee said Monday that Steinman's award would stand and that his survivors would receive his share of the $1.5 million prize.

The Canadian-born Steinman, 68, was awarded the prize along with American Bruce Beutler and French scientist Jules Hoffmann. They were honored for discoveries about the body's disease-fighting immune system.

Steinman discovered so-called dendritic cells in 1973. These cells regulate the activity of other cells—Steinman called them the conductor of the immune system.

"When he got sick, he realized he needed to call upon these cells to induce a strong enough immune response to fight his tumor, and that is what he did," said Dr. Sarah Schlesinger, clinical director for his lab.

Steinman tried eight to 10 experimental therapies approved by the federal government, focusing in various ways on revving up his immune system to fight his cancer, she said.

Nobel Prize for medicine

Bruce Butler (U.S.), Jules Hoffman (Luxembourg, France) and Ralph Steinman (Canada and U.S.) *won the 2011 Nobel prize for medicine for their work on the immune system.*

Recent recipients

2010 Robert Edwards, **U.K.**

2009 Elizabeth H. Blackburn, Jack W. Szostak, both **U.S.**

2008 Harald zur Hausen, **GER**; Francoise Barre-Sinoussi and Luc Montagnier, both **France**

2007 Mario R. Capecchi and Oliver Smithies, **U.S.**; Sir Martin J. Evans, **U.K.**

2006 Andrew Z. Fire, Craig C. Mello, both **U.S.**

2005 Barry J. Marshall, J. Robin Warren, both **Australia**

2004 Richard Axel, Linda B. Buck, both **U.S.**

Source: The Nobel Foundation © 2011 MCT

For Obama, finding one clear foil may take a while

WASHINGTON (AP)—Maybe even more than the Republicans, President Barack Obama is looking forward to the GOP picking a candidate to challenge him.

For now and months to come, Obama is an incumbent with no specific rival, a campaigner against various forces but not one in particular.

He is running against a staggering economy. And Congress. And himself—that history-making version of Obama that many voters remember from 2008.

The longer it takes for Republicans to rally around a nominee, the more the election remains a referendum on Obama and jobs. That's not what the White House and his campaign eagerly want: a clear choice between the president and another candidate who holds starkly different views about how to improve the economy.

With polls showing his approval rating in the low 40s, Obama even contended on Monday that he's the underdog.

Obama

"I don't mind—I'm used to being an underdog," the president said in an interview with ABC News. "And I think that at the end of the day, though, what people are going to say is, who's got a vision for the future that can actually help ordinary families recapture that American dream."

With no control over when he gets an opponent, Obama is now waging what amounts to a proxy campaign against the eventual Republican nominee.

Every time he presents his jobs bill as a choice between helping the middle class or protecting the ultra-rich, every time he tells Democratic donors that his opponents' approach to governing "will fundamentally cripple America," he is previewing a campaign argument that he will apply against whoever his opponent is.

"What the president is saying now compared to what he's going to be saying in May—I think there's going to be a great symmetry between the two," said David Plouffe, an Obama senior adviser in the White House and the manager of Obama's campaign in 2008.

"We don't sit around here saying, `We wish we had an opponent.' We know that's going to come," Plouffe said. "When that day comes, we'll be ready for it."

The Republican electoral calendar is fluid and accelerating, with Florida's decision to hold a late-January primary likely to prompt other states to move up their voting, too. Still, newly adopted Republican rules on how delegates are awarded will make it harder for any candidate to quickly clinch the nomination.

DNA helps free Texas man convicted in wife's death

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Texas prosecutors agreed Monday to release an Austin man who spent nearly 25 years in prison for beating his wife to death—but always maintained his innocence—after DNA tests showed another man was responsible.

District Judge Sid Harle recommended Michael Morton go free to the state Court of Criminal Appeals, which will make the final determination on overturning his conviction. Morton is set for release Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning, following a final hearing before Harle.

The case will likely raise more questions about John Bradley, district attorney for Williamson County north of Austin and once a Gov. Rick Perry appointee to head the Texas Forensic Science Commission. Bradley criticized the commission's investigation of the case of Cameron Todd Willingham, who was executed in 2004 after being convicted of arson in the deaths of his three children. Experts have since concluded that case's forensic science was faulty.

The Innocence Project, a New York-based organization that specializes in using DNA testing to overturn wrongful convictions, has accused Bradley of suppressing evidence that would have helped clear Morton, who was convicted on circumstantial evidence and sentenced to life in prison for his wife's August 1986 beating death. Bradley said in court Monday that he wasn't involved in the original trial, and urged the public to "recall that prosecutors are called upon to do justice . . . that we are searching for the fair solution."

Prosecutors had alleged Morton became enraged after his wife refused to have sex with him following a dinner celebrating his 32nd birthday.

But tests performed this summer on a blood-stained, blue bandana found shortly after the crime near Morton's home revealed DNA from his wife and an unidentified man convicted in multiple states, including California. Authorities have withheld his identity amid ongoing investigations.

Nina Morrison, an attorney for the Innocence Project, told Harle's court Monday that Morton testified during his 1987 trial and said an intruder must have bludgeoned his wife to death after he left her and the couple's 3-year-old son at 5 a.m. for his job at a grocery store. Morrison said the bandana was discovered 100 yards from the Morton home, along a route consistent with the one Morton said the intruder used to break in.

Paraplegic skipper lauded for saving lives at sea

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—A paraplegic skipper is being credited with actions that helped save the lives of all but one friend on his pleasure fishing boat as it took on water in rough seas off Maine.

The 24-foot boat, Job Site 2, swamped and rolled upside down Friday while anchored about 5 miles off Kennebunkport during a day of fishing for bluefin tuna.

The outcome could have been worse if skipper Nicholas Masi III, of Biddeford, hadn't calmly told the three other men on board to don survival suits and issued a mayday with precise coordinates, Maine Marine Patrol Sgt. Rob Beal said.

Moments after Masi radioed a distress call, the boat rolled over in 4- to 5-foot seas and 63-degree water, with few other boats nearby.

"If he hadn't kept his head and radioed a distress call, it's hard to say how long all four individuals would have been in the water," Beal said. "You can only speculate from there."

Masi, 45, said he did what he had to to keep people alive but it's not much consolation with the death of his good friend Douglas Isenberg, who died at the scene. The two had been close friends since second grade, Masi said.

"I hear they're calling me a hero, but my best friend is gone," he said.

Masi has used a wheelchair since he was paralyzed four years ago in an accident while working as a house builder.

On Friday, he and three friends from Biddeford took his Grady-White boat to a fishing spot where they anchored for a few hours on a beautiful fall day. Around 3 p.m., the wind and seas kicked up, and the boat started taking on water.

The boat's anchor line got tangled in the propeller, and the battery then went dead, preventing Masi from driving the boat to safety, he said.

That's when he instructed the others to put on their survival suits before getting on the radio and transmitting a distress call with his situation and location. Masi didn't have time to put on his survival suit before the boat went under, putting on only a life jacket.

Once the boat rolled over, Masi told his friends to stay together, stay close to the boat and use a cooler to help keep them afloat, said Daricus Hunter, who was on board.

Asia

Dognappers spark deadly violence across Vietnam

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—It was already too late when Nguyen Van Cuong heard a neighbor shout "Thief! Thief!" Two men on a motorbike had snatched up his beloved pet dog "Black" and were whizzing away.

Cuong and the neighbor sprinted in vain as the professional dog thieves hurled bricks, one of them slamming into the head of a bystander and killing him.

Similar fights have erupted across Vietnam between dognappers who sell man's best friend to restaurants and fed-up villagers who have increasingly turned to vigilante justice to pursue culprits because there is little police can do. Mobs have chased down thieves and clubbed them to death—even setting one on fire. But the bandits use everything from bricks to arrows to fend off the villagers and ensure their payday.

"Dog thieves are getting more aggressive—they steal villagers' dogs in broad daylight," said Tran The Thieu, police chief of Hung Dong village in central Nghe An province. "People are very angry to see their dogs stolen and dog thieves are rarely arrested."

AP

Dogs are kept in a cage of a wholesale supplier of live dogs, one of the biggest in town, in Hanoi, Vietnam on Monday, Oct. 3, 2011.

Dog meat is a delicacy in Vietnam that's often on the menu at parties, especially in the north. Restaurants specializing in barbecue dog are especially popular at the end of each lunar month when men dine on canine in hopes of purging bad luck.

Dog restaurants in the capital, Hanoi, have boomed as Vietnam has become one of Asia's fastest-developing economies. But as inflation soars, some Vietnamese have looked for creative ways to earn money.

Because dogs typically roam free, they can be easy targets. Live dogs in Hanoi fetch about $2.70 a pound ($6 a kilogram)—a bit more than for live chickens. A 44-pound (20-kilogram) pooch can sell for more than $100—roughly the monthly salary of an average Vietnamese worker.

It's a good wage for thieves who cruise neighborhoods on motorbikes, snaring pets quicker than a U.S. car thief can hotwire a Cadillac Escalade. Sometimes, they incapacitate the dogs first by shooting them with darts or arrows pulsating with electric current.

Many Vietnamese are of two minds about dogs. They may rely on the animals to protect their homes and often give them names, but don't consider them to be pseudo-family members as in the West. But that doesn't mean they don't care about their pets.

In Nghe An province, police chief Thieu says dog-related violence is escalating. Last June, a dognapper was chased and clubbed to death by a mob who then torched his body, leaving the charred remains as a warning on the roadside. Seven villagers were hurt in other incidents there when they pursued thieves who retaliated with knives, bottles and slings.

Most residents don't even bother calling police.

"Residents say the police just fine these thieves and let them go," Senior Lt. Col. Ho Ba Vo, vice chief investigator in Nghe An, told the newspaper Thanh Nien (Young People). "It's true. A thief only faces criminal charges when the property involved is worth at least 2 million dong (US$97). A dog is much cheaper than that and the thief is only fined for the attempted theft."

There are no charges specific to dognapping, and the typical fine for petty theft ranges from 1 million to 2 million dong ($50 to $100).

In the southern province of Soc Trang, two men turned themselves into police on Sept. 26, a day after fatally shooting a dog owner through the heart with an arrow as he was chasing them.

The lucrative illegal dog trade also crosses borders.

Last month in northern Thailand, police arrested two men trying to smuggle 120 dogs into Vietnam stuffed into bags. In August, 1,800 ailing dogs crammed into cages on a truck also were confiscated in Thailand on their way to Vietnam. Half of them later died, local media reported.

Malaysian leader launches security law overhaul

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's prime minister launched moves in Parliament on Monday to revoke strict security laws as part of his new pledge to protect civil liberties.

The biggest overhaul of Malaysia's security policies in decades is expected to culminate in March with the repeal of the Internal Security Act, a law that has enabled the government to detain thousands of suspects without trial in the past, including opposition critics, labor activists and alleged militants. Prime Minister Najib Razak promised last month that several laws long criticized by rights groups would be annulled. Opposition leaders consider it an effort to shore up the ruling coalition's support ahead of national elections expected by mid-2012.

Najib tabled bills in Parliament's lower house Monday to abolish two less-recognized laws that allow authorities to restrict the movement of suspects and to banish foreigners from the country.

The government has been working on ways to "find a balance between individual human rights, civil liberties and the assurance of public peace," Najib said.

One of the laws mentioned Monday, the Restricted Residence Act, has been used by police to control the whereabouts and closely monitor suspects including teenagers accused of being motorcycle thieves, illegal football betting operators and alleged gang members.

Officials defended the laws previously, saying they were needed to curb threats to public stability in cases where evidence against suspects was insufficient.

Malaysian rights activists have cautiously welcomed Najib's efforts, noting that the government still plans to introduce new laws to replace those abolished. Najib has promised the new laws would provide for more judicial oversight and only permit the detention of terrorists.

Parliament's lower house is likely to debate and pass the first two bills this month before submitting them to the senate and the country's constitutional monarch for their final approval.

On Monday, the government also tabled a bill to create a bipartisan parliamentary panel to study possible reforms in electoral laws over the next six months. The initiative comes after tens of thousands of demonstrators marched in Kuala Lumpur in July to demand a cleanup of voter registration lists and tighter measures to prevent electoral fraud.

Najib's National Front coalition has governed since 1957, but it has struggled in recent years to tackle accusations of rampant corruption and racial discrimination. The coalition is eager to secure a stronger mandate in the next election after the opposition won one-third of Parliament's seats and wrested several states in 2008 polls.

Afghan president strikes softer tone on Pakistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan's president said Monday that Pakistan has broken promises to help end the Taliban-led insurgency but that he hopes the two countries can work together like brothers—softening his rhetoric after days of tough talk in which he had suggested relations were about to break down. The two countries' relations have become increasingly strained since the assassination of former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani two weeks ago. A host of Afghan officials have publicly accused Pakistan and its spy agency of supporting the militants who killed Rabbani. And Afghan President Hamid Karzai has suspended a series of talks with Pakistan and the United States aimed at improving cooperation in combating the Taliban.

Karzai's speech—pre-recorded and broadcast on state television—appeared to be an attempt to soothe relations while still calling for Pakistan to do more to rein in insurgents that maintain havens within its borders.

"We hope the Pakistani government will think about the interests of the Pakistani people, who also want peace and stability," Karzai said. "Our two countries should cooperate."

Afghanistan and Pakistan have long been uneasy allies against the Taliban insurgency, largely because of a long history of the Pakistani government backing insurgents as a way to keep a check on Afghan administrations it worries might ally with its arch rival, India.

But the Afghan government appeared emboldened in recent days by a strengthening of U.S. criticism of Pakistan.

On Sept. 22, the outgoing chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, said the Haqqani network, which is affiliated with the Taliban and al-Qaida, "acts as a veritable arm" of Pakistan's intelligence agency. Mullen accused the Haqqani network of staging an attack against the U.S. Embassy and NATO headquarters in Kabul and a truck bombing that wounded 77 American soldiers last month. He claimed Pakistan's spy agency helped the group.

Karzai has followed by issuing some of his strongest statements yet against Pakistan.

On Saturday, Karzai released a video of a meeting he held with the nation's top religious leaders in which he said he has given up trying to talk to the Taliban and demanded Pakistan prove that it is working for peace.

Pakistan has denied any involvement with insurgents or the killing of Rabbani.

Karzai's latest remarks come ahead of a trip to India. The visit had been planned weeks ago, but its timing has draws attention to Pakistan's worst fears—that Afghanistan will ally with India and present Pakistan with two hostile borders.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bottled water only relief for some in Pacific

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Crops are wilting, schools are without functioning bathrooms and government officials are bathing in lagoons amid a severe fresh water shortage in the South Pacific. The island nations of Tuvalu and Tokelau have each declared a state of emergency, with water supplies running dangerously low. And parts of Samoa are starting to ration water. Aid agencies and government officials in New Zealand have sent desalination units and bottled water to try and mitigate the crisis. Six months of low rainfall have dried out the islands, and weather forecasters say there may not be much more rain over the next three months. Officials say Tokelau has run out of natural fresh water altogether and is now relying solely on bottled water.

Gunmen kill 12 Shiite Muslims in Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—Police says gunmen have killed 12 Shiite Muslims in southwest Pakistan in an apparent sectarian attack. Police official Hamid Shakeel says the attackers stopped the Shiites Tuesday as they were riding on a bus on the outskirts of Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province. The gunmen forced them to stand in a line and then opened fire, killing 12 people and wounding six others. It is unclear if those wounded were also Shiites. Pakistan is a majority Sunni Muslim state. Although most Sunnis and Shiites in Pakistan live together peacefully, extremist attacks occur fairly frequently. The Sunni-Shiite schism over the true heir to Islam's Prophet Muhammad dates back to the seventh century.

Japan to hold whale hunts despite activist threats

TOKYO (AP)—Japan plans to go ahead with its whaling program in the Antarctic later this year despite threats from activists to disrupt the annual hunt. Japan's hunts have become increasingly tense in recent years because of clashes with the conservationist group Sea Shepherd. The most recent hunt was cut short after several high-seas confrontations, and it was unclear if the hunt would be held at all this year. But Japan's fisheries minister said Tuesday measures will be taken to ensure the safety of the whalers and the hunt will go ahead. It is expected to begin in December.

World

Italy appeals court clears Amanda Knox of murder

PERUGIA, Italy (AP)—Amanda Knox left prison Monday, a free woman for the first time in four years, after an Italian appeals court threw out the young American's murder conviction in the sexual assault and stabbing death of her British roommate.

Knox, 24, collapsed in tears after the verdict was read, her lawyers draping their arms around her in support. Her co-defendant and former boyfriend, Italian Raffaele Sollecito, also was cleared of killing 21-year-old Meredith Kercher in 2007.

"We're thankful that Amanda's nightmare is over," her younger sister, Deanna Knox, told reporters outside the courthouse. "She suffered for four years for a crime she did not commit."

The eight-member jury acquitted both Knox and Sollecito of murder after a court-ordered review of the DNA evidence cast serious doubts over the main DNA evidence linking the two to the crime.

While the court won't release its reasons for clearing the two for weeks, the discrediting of the DNA evidence was believed to have been the fatal blow to the prosecution's case in the absence of a clear motive.

The jury had two options to acquit: determining there wasn't enough evidence to uphold the conviction or that the pair simply didn't commit the crime. The jury determined the latter, clearing Knox and Sollecito completely.

Even if prosecutors appeal the acquittal to Italy's highest court, nothing in Italian law would prevent her from returning home to Seattle. An Italian lawmaker who has championed her case, Rocco Girlanda, said she was due to fly out Tuesday from Rome.

About 90 minutes after the verdict was handed down a black Mercedes carrying Knox was seen leaving the prison.

The jury upheld Knox's conviction on a charge of slander for accusing bar owner Diya "Patrick" Lumumba of carrying out the killing. But he set the sentence at three years, meaning for time served. Knox has been in prison since Nov. 6, 2007, five days after the murder.

The Kercher family looked on grimly and a bit dazed as the verdict was read out by the judge after 11 hours of deliberations. Outside the courthouse, some of the hundreds of observers shouted, "Shame! Shame!"

AP

Amanda Knox cries following the verdict that overturns her conviction and acquits her of murdering her British roomate Meredith Kercher, at the Perugia court, Italy, Monday Oct. 3, 2011.

"We respect the decision of the judges but we do not understand how the decision of the first trial could be so radically overturned," the Kerchers said in a statement. "We still trust the Italian justice system and hope that the truth will eventually emerge."

The victim's sister, Stephanie Kercher, who was in Perugia with her mother and brother for the verdict, lamented that Meredith "has been nearly forgotten."

Inside the frescoed courtroom, Knox's parents, who have regularly traveled from their home in Seattle to Perugia to visit her over the past four years, hugged their lawyers and cried with joy. Knox herself was so overwhelmed with tears that two guards tugged on her arms to escort her out of the courtroom.

One of Knox's lawyers, Carlo della Vedova said he didn't know when Knox would leave the country. Knox needed to renew her passport, but it's not clear how quickly that could be done or if the paperwork was already completed.

The trial has captivated audiences worldwide. Knox and Sollecito, who had just begun dating, were convicted of murdering Kercher in what the lower court said began as a drug-fueled sexual assault.

Also convicted in separate proceedings was Rudy Hermann Guede, a small-time drug dealer and drifter who spent most of his life in Italy after arriving here from his native Ivory Coast. Guede was convicted in a separate fast-track procedure and saw his sentence cut to 16 years in his final appeal.

Lawyers for Knox and Sollecito charged that Guede was the sole killer, but the prosecution and a lawyer for the Kercher family said bruises and a lack of defensive wounds on Kercher's body prove there was more than one aggressor holding her down.

After the verdict, the U.S. State Department said it appreciated the "careful consideration" the Italian justice system gave to the case. "Our embassy in Rome will continue to provide appropriate consular assistance to Ms. Knox and her family," spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said after the verdict.

In Seattle, about a dozen Knox supporters were overjoyed.

"She's free!" and "We did it!" they shouted at a hotel where they watched the court proceedings on TV.

Earlier Monday, Knox tearfully told the court in fluent Italian that she did not kill the woman who shared an apartment with her when they were both students in Perugia. Knox frequently paused for breath as she spoke to the eight members of the jury in a packed courtroom, but managed to maintain her composure during the 10-minute address.

"I've lost a friend in the worst, most brutal, most inexplicable way possible," she said. "I'm paying with my life for things that I didn't do."

Knox and Sollecito were convicted of sexually assaulting and murdering Kercher, who was stabbed to death in her bedroom. Knox was sentenced to 26 years in prison, Sollecito to 25.

"I never hurt anyone, never in my life," Sollecito said Monday in his own speech to the jury.

The prosecution's case was set back during the appeal when two court-ordered independent experts reviewed the DNA evidence that had been used to link the two to the crime during the first trial.

From the start, the weak point in the prosecution's case was the lack of motive along with unreliable and at times contradictory eyewitness testimony. Therefore, much depended on the scientific evidence gathered by investigators.

Activists: Syrian regime detains 3,000 in 3 days

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian troops going house to house have detained more than 3,000 people in the past three days in the rebellious town of Rastan, which saw some of the worst fighting of the 6-month-old uprising recently, activists said Monday.

Over the past week, the military fought hundreds of army defectors who sided with anti-regime protesters in Rastan. The fighting demonstrated the increasingly militarized nature of the uprising and heightened fears that Syria may be sliding toward civil war.

The activist group Local Coordination Committees said fighting in the town has now stopped after the military operation that left dozens dead. The group and a Rastan-based activist confirmed about 3,000 in the town of 70,000 had been detained. The activist told The Associated Press by telephone that the detainees are being held at a cement factory, as well as some schools and the Sports Club, a massive, four-story compound.

"Ten of my relatives have been detained," said the activist, who asked that he be identified only by his first name Hassan for fear of retaliation. He said he was speaking from hiding in Rastan.

Syria's opposition movement has until now focused on peaceful demonstrations, although recently there have been reports of protesters taking up arms to defend themselves against military attacks. Army defectors have also been fighting government troops, particularly in Rastan, the town just north of Homs that government forces retook on Saturday.

The fears of civil war, possibly along sectarian lines, were also heightened by the assassination Sunday of the 21-year-old son of Syria's top Sunni Muslim cleric—the latest in a string of targeted killings.

The state-appointed cleric, Grand Mufti Ahmad Badreddine Hassoun, is considered a loyal supporter of President Bashar Assad's regime, heading a host of regime-backed Sunni clergymen who have been a base of support for the president's ruling Alawite sect.

Hassoun, who has echoed regime claims that the unrest in Syria is the result of a foreign conspiracy, accused the opposition of creating the climate for his son's killing and blamed rival, anti-Assad Sunni clerics for allegedly issuing fatwas, or religious edicts, inciting against him.

"My brothers who were misguided and carried arms, you should have assassinated me because some clerics issued such fatwas. Why did you kill a young man who did nothing and harmed no one?" Hassoun, holding back tears, said in a sermon at his son's funeral in the northeastern city of Aleppo, aired on Syrian TV stations.

The killing was the latest in a series of targeted executions of prominent people including a nuclear engineer, university professors and physicians. The men, a mixture of Alawites, Christians and Shiites, were all killed in a hail of bullets in the past week, most of them in central Homs province—one of the hotbeds of anti-government protests.

The regime has accused "terrorist gunmen" of the killings, while the opposition in turn accused the regime of trying to foment sectarian strife to maintain its grip on power.

Syria's volatile sectarian divide means that an armed conflict could rapidly escalate in scale and brutality. The Assad regime is dominated by the Alawite minority, an offshoot of Shiite Islam, but the country is overwhelmingly Sunni Muslim. Alawite dominance has bred resentments, which Assad has worked to tamp down by pushing a strictly secular identity for the state.

He has exploited fears of a civil war fears by portraying himself as the only power who can keep the peace.

In a sign that Assad's regime might be reaching beyond Syria's borders in its crackdown, Amnesty International said in a report released Monday that Syrian expatriates in eight countries, including many in the United States, have been systematically monitored and harassed by embassy officials and others believed to be acting on behalf of the government.

WORLD BRIEFS

2 severed heads found in Mexico City with message

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Police in Mexico City found two severed human heads on a street near a major military base Monday, a grisly tactic of warring drug gangs that has long affected other parts of the country while largely sparing the capital. Decapitations are frequently carried out by gangs in drug-violence-plagued cities such as the Pacific coast resort of Acapulco and in northern Mexico, often to intimidate or threaten rivals. But it was the first multiple decapitation in the capital since January 2008, when two heads were found near the city's international airport. Two heads were also found in the same vicinity in December 2007. Those killings were believed to be related to a drug shipment that had been seized at the airport.

Exiled Libyan Jew says synagogue efforts blocked

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—A Libyan Jewish man who returned from exile in Italy to join the revolution against Moammar Gadhafi was blocked Monday from trying to restore Tripoli's main synagogue. David Gerbi said he went to clean garbage from the synagogue on Monday, a day after he broke through the entrance with a sledgehammer to great fanfare. A messenger at the scene warned him, however, that armed men were coming from all over Libya and would target him if he did not leave the area. Gerbi said he was told a mass anti-Jewish demonstration was planned for Friday in the capital's central Martrys' Square, which used to be named Green Square under Gadhafi's regime.

Focus

The silent battle for servicewomen: sexual assault

By MELISSA DRIBBEN
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Linda Bullock, pictured August 12, 2011, says she was sexually assaulted by a drill sergeant while serving in the military 25 years ago.

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/MCT

Dr. Kristine Sudol-Regan, a clinical psychologist at the Coatesville Veterans Hospital, pictured August 26, 2011, in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, treats women vets who have been sexually abused and assaulted.

PHILADELPHIA—The U.S. military is struggling to defend troops who are under siege day and night on ill-defined battlefields. Troops who are fighting wars in which it can be impossible to identify the enemy or to know whom to trust. And when they are betrayed, they dare not tell anyone.

They are the nation's women in uniform, and they are being sexually harassed, abused and assaulted at an alarming rate by their fellow soldiers and officers.

Since 9/11, with unprecedented numbers of women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, the nation's military leaders say that misogyny is undermining troop readiness.

Women enlist for the same reasons as other soldiers, to further their education, establish careers, and serve their country. These were Linda Bullock's motives, too, when she joined the Army Reserve at 18. She wanted to belong to a community based on honor and trust. Something she couldn't find in her own family where she had been repeatedly raped by a close relative.

Bullock was sent to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio for training.

Although she had never been away from home before, the city girl from Baltimore, "a string bean" at 5-foot-9 and 135 pounds, surprised herself with her toughness. "It was cool," she says.

After two weeks of field exercises, she returned to her barracks desperate for a shower.

While the rest of her fellow soldiers left to get dressed, Bullock stayed behind, luxuriating in the hot water. The bathroom was deserted when she finally wrapped herself in a towel. Suddenly, her drill sergeant appeared.

"Who else is here?" she remembers him asking.

"No one," she said. Then he covered her mouth, threw her down and raped her.

"He acted like he was on a mission," Bullock says. She was strong, but no match for a man of about 6-foot-3 and at least 200 pounds. "And anyway, I was too petrified to move." When he finished, he threatened, "If you tell anybody—not that they'll believe you—you might as well kiss your career goodbye."

So she said nothing about it for the next 25 years.

A 2010 study commissioned by the Department of Defense found that 4 percent of military women on active duty had been sexually abused or assaulted while on the job. But about 70 percent and 80 percent of victims do not report their attacks.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has found that one in five female veterans seeking health care say they have been subjected to sexual intimidation, threat, assault, or rape. And men are abused as well; one in 100 screened by the VA reports sexual trauma.

Soldiers remain silent because they fear that they will not be believed or that they will be blamed for sending mixed messages. They worry about being branded as weak or damaged or untrustworthy.

Among the few victims who come forward, even fewer press charges.

Military courts do not protect a victim's identity as carefully as the civilian justice system does. Confidential conversations between a victim and a psychologist, medical professional, even a chaplain can be used by defense attorneys. And there is skepticism that attackers will be punished.

Of the 2,284 sexual-assault investigations conducted in 2009, nearly half were dropped because evidence was insufficient, the victim declined to pursue the case, or the court ruled that the allegations were unfounded.

In a confidential interview with the Defense Department task force, one military judge advocate general said: "We don't lose cases due to lack of effort or care. They are tough cases."

Recognizing the problem, the nation's military leadership has adopted a new policy toward sexual abuse, said Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog. "We're not going to ignore it, we're not going to excuse it, and we're not going to condone it."

Hertog, the new director of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, said, "It's all about the climate that is set by that commander on the ground."

Recruits need to be trained to respect and protect one another, response services need improvement, and abusers must be brought to justice. But like any complex system, she said, the military cannot transform itself overnight.

"It's evolutionary. ... It takes a long time to change the culture."

Some victims are tired of waiting. In February, 15 women and two men, both active duty and veterans, filed a class-action suit against the Pentagon. The suit claimed that the military failed to properly investigate rapes and sexual assaults.

The weekend before the 10th anniversary of 9/11, more than 20 additional names were added to the lawsuit, said Susan Burke, the plaintiffs' lead lawyer.

"It is clear there needs to be dramatic and immediate reform," said Burke, former counsel to Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter. "The military cannot be permitted to continue to retaliate against soldiers who have been raped and sexually assaulted. The military needs to prosecute the perpetrators, not blame the victims."

■ ■ ■ ■

"I really wanted to jump out of airplanes," says Michele Roscher.

Home-schooled in a small Massachusetts town, Roscher enlisted in the Army Reserve at 17, determined to serve her country.

"I liked the idea that I was doing something important."

In 2003, she received orders sending her to Iraq and was assigned to a unit in Norristown, Pa., for pre-deployment training, one of three women among 130 soldiers.

Because there was no physical base, they stayed in a hotel. The first night, Roscher joined a group going to a TGI Friday's near Plymouth Meeting Mall.

"My sergeant major bought me my first drink," she recounts. "The first thing I was told is never refuse a beer. If you don't drink a beer someone buys for you, it's called 'alcohol abuse.'"

Heavy drinking, she says, enjoys a righteous role in the service. "There's a big feeling that we'd better party while we can because we don't know who's coming home."

After one beer, Roscher was woozy. "I kept saying, 'No, I'm good,' but they kept buying me more beers." The group drifted back to the hotel bar, where the drinking continued. She was unsteady on her feet when a specialist, several years older and one rank above her, offered to walk her to her room. Instead, he took her to his.

"I wasn't coherent enough to figure it out," she recounts. "I remember being on the floor saying: 'No! Stop it!' The next thing I remember, he ... forced me to give him oral sex."

She never reported the incident.

If she had, she felt sure she'd be moved to another unit. "And if a female comes to your unit, everyone knows why. You're labeled." Worse, she says, "I thought I deserved it. I shouldn't have drunk so much."

During her first nine months in Iraq, she dated a soldier who was abusive and used to punch her "playfully," leaving bruises on her body. She stayed with him anyway, figuring that the mistreatment was a small price to pay for the protection he gave her from other men in her unit.

Back in the States, she broke off the relationship, went to Penn State University and earned her degree in political science and criminal justice.

In November 2007, Roscher was redeployed. During that tour, the sexual harassment was relentless, she says. One staff sergeant kept pressuring her to sleep with him, even though he was married.

"What happens on active duty is like 'what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas.' He told me, 'You don't know my wife's number.'"

When she refused his advances, she says, the sergeant "did everything he could to make me look bad" and tried to sabotage her career.

She was sent to Sadr City and survived an attack that killed a major and a female soldier. Before she could recover from the shock, she received an email from an officer. "He said the reason I was brought to Sadr City was so he could look at my ass."

The choices for women soldiers, she says, are simple. "If you're not a bitch, you're a whore. If you talk to guys, if you're nice, it's assumed you're sleeping with them. If you don't go out, you're not one of the guys, and you're hung out to dry. People don't talk to you, and in combat they're not willing to put their neck out for you."

She didn't dare confide in other women, she says. "It's very cutthroat. Even if I said I was sexually assaulted, it's like, 'You're in the military. Deal with it.'"

Roscher kept her private turmoil to herself for more than five years, accepting promotions and assignments and earning the honor of being chosen to jump out of a plane into the La Fiere drop zone in Normandy on the 65th anniversary of D-Day.

But in 2009, when she received her orders to report to Afghanistan, her past caught up with her. She was constantly crying, panicking at sudden noises, not sleeping or eating well, showing all the signs of post-traumatic stress disorder, a common reaction to sexual trauma.

"I was afraid if I got deployed again," she said, "I was not going to be able to recover."

During a screening at the Coatesville VA Hospital before receiving care for an unrelated problem, she was asked if she had ever experienced unwanted sexual advances in the military.

Her answer led her to Kristine Sudol-Regan, one of the VA's psychologists specializing in military sexual trauma.

Sudol-Regan said it's not unusual for her to be the first person her patients have ever told about an assault.

Campus Life

Illegal students face obstacles even after college

By ERIKA NIEDOWSKI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (AP)—When Rhode Island became the thirteenth state to allow cheaper in-state tuition for illegal immigrants at public colleges, supporters heralded the move as one that would give students the kind of advanced education they need to succeed in the work force.

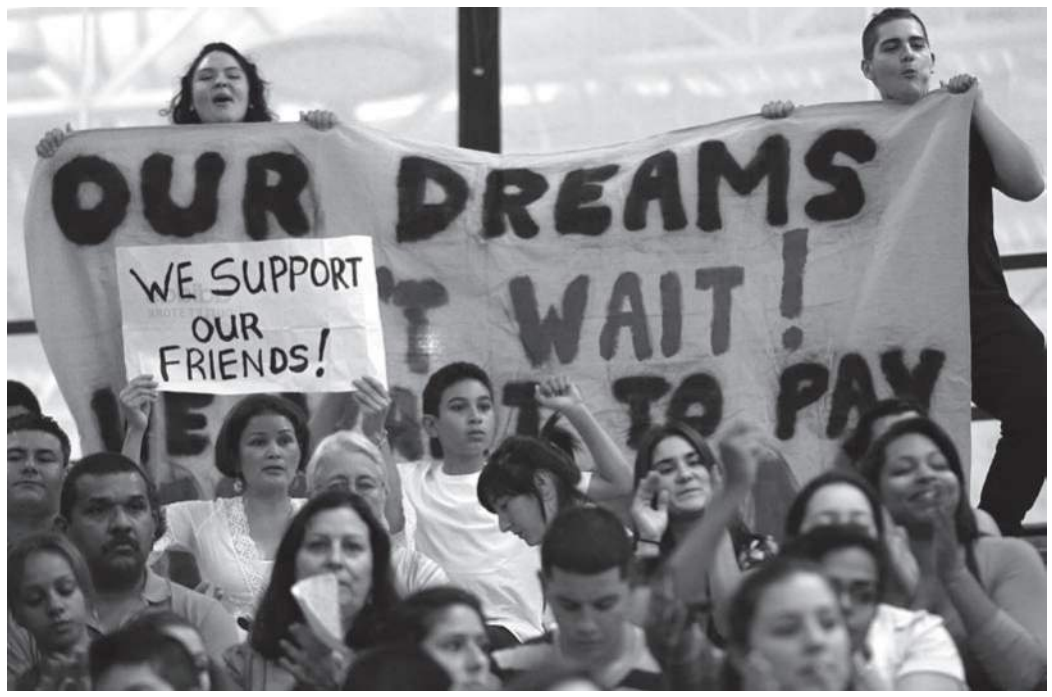
But students who are not here legally may still face a major obstacle even with the benefit of a college degree: Many have no immediate pathway to legal status and, under current federal immigration law, employers cannot legally hire them.

"I know of students who have graduated magna cum laude and top honors in their colleges, but right now they're working minimum wage in restaurants," said Antonio Albizures-Lopez, 20, who came to the U.S. from Guatemala when he was 1.

Albizures-Lopez, who is pursuing legal residency, says the best solution is passage of federal legislation, known as the DREAM Act, which provides a pathway to legal residency for college students.

The Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education, which oversees the state's three public higher education institutions, unanimously approved in-state tuition for illegal immigrants last week, effective in the fall of 2012. The General Assembly had failed repeatedly to take action on legislation that's been introduced year after year.

Eleven states—California, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Texas, Utah, and Washington—have laws allowing the children of illegal immigrants to receive in-state rates if they meet certain requirements, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Oklahoma allows in-state tuition for the children of illegal immigrants under a state Board of Regents policy.



AP
In this Sept. 26, 2011 photo, college student Jasmine Oliver, of Warwick, R.I., top left, and Javier Gonzalez, of Pawtucket, R.I., top right, display a banner and shout their support for allowing illegal immigrants to pay in-state tuition rates while attending public colleges in the state, during a Board of Governors of Higher Education meeting on the campus of the Community College of Rhode Island, in Warwick, R.I. But research varies on the effects of resident tuition rates for illegal immigrants, including on enrollment, and students may still face a tough road even if they graduate with a college degree: Without passage of the DREAM Act or other federal immigration reform, illegal immigrant students have no pathway to legal status, and it remains illegal for employers to hire them.

Gov. Lincoln Chafee, in urging the Board of Governors to adopt the change, said it would allow more Rhode Islanders to attend college, help build a stronger work force and boost an economy that is among the nation's most troubled.

Research varies on how much resident tuition rates for illegal immigrants increase enrollment. A 2010 paper co-authored by Aimee Chinn, an economist at the University of Houston, did not find a sizeable increase overall for 18- to -24-year-olds in the 10 states studied, although it did find that Mexican men in their 20s attended at modestly higher rates. It also found that even in-state tuition may still be too expensive, especially since illegal immigrant students do not qualify for federal education aid.

By contrast, a study this year by the Latino Policy Institute at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island, which looked at an array of research on the issue, said that in-state tuition has led to an enrollment increase among illegal immigrants, on average, of 31 percent in the places it has been implemented.

The Urban Institute has estimated that 65,000 illegal immigrants graduate from high school in the U.S. every year.

But even if more students go on to attend public colleges and universities with the benefit of in-state rates, a big question remains: how will they fare in the work force after they graduate, even with a degree that traditionally makes it easier to get the kind of high-skill, high-paying job not available to those who finish only high school.

"Even with a college degree, there hasn't been a more general immigration reform that would enable these kids to get a job once they have their degree," said Chinn.

Amanda Pereira, 18, came to the U.S. illegally at the age of 6 from Brazil with her family.

"In a way, it is going to be another dead end," she said. "But in a way it is a help, because at least they got through another four years and got their education, so they can find ways to possibly get legalized through an employer."

The Brandeis University freshman was granted legal status—after more than a decade pursuing it—last spring, but is continuing to advocate for illegal immigrant students.

"We do need to continue pushing for the DREAM Act," she said.

That federal legislation—the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act—would provide a pathway to legal residency for illegal-immigrant students providing they meet certain requirements. A December study by UCLA estimated that such students could contribute anywhere from $1.4 trillion to $3.6 trillion to the nation's economy over the course of their careers, depending on how many ultimately obtain citizenship.

But the bill has failed to win the necessary votes in the U.S. Congress despite repeated tries, and its prospects for passage are uncertain.

Albizures-Lopez, a resident of Lincoln who graduated from Blackstone Academy Charter School in 2009, called in-state tuition a "stepping stone" to college but added, "It's not complete. It's not even halfway complete."

He says he has "protected status" while his legal case for residency is pending, so he is able to work a part-time job coaching soccer at a private high school. He plans to apply to college, including the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College, where he could get in-state rates. URI's in-state tuition is $9,824, compared to $25,912 for out-of-state students.

UOG faculty member gets Fulbright Specialists award

Dr. Richard W. Fee, associate professor of Special Education at the University of Guam, has been selected for a Fulbright Specialists project in Philippines at the University of Santo Tomas – Faculty of Medicine during 2011-2012 academic year, according to the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship board.

Over the next 12 months, Dr. Fee will provide technical assistance and post-graduate training courses in the education of deaf children at the University of Santo Tomas – Faculty of Medicine. This innovative research and training project will explore methods for creating early intervention services and auditory centers to assist deaf children in urban and rural areas throughout the country. Dr. Fee will also assist in preparing and supporting special education and regular classroom teachers to accept over 3,000 poor deaf children who were recently given free hearing aids. There will be three two-week onsite experiences at UST over the year. The University of Santo Tomas, one of the most prestigious universities in the Philippines, recently celebrated its 400th anniversary, making it the oldest university in Asia.

Dr. Fee is one of 400 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad this year through the Fulbright Specialists Program. The Fulbright Specialists Program, created in 2000 to complement the traditional Fulbright Scholar Program, provides short-term academic opportunities (two to six weeks) to prominent U.S. faculty and professionals to support curricular and faculty development and institutional planning at post secondary, academic institutions around the world.

The Fulbright Program, America's flagship international educational exchange activity, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Recipients of Fulbright Scholar awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement. ***(Fulbright)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Dr. Norberto V. Martinez, M.D., Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery, University of Santo Tomas –Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, and Dr. Richard W. Fee, Ph.D., associate professor of Special Education, University of Guam.

Surfing to be official high school sport in Hawaii

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii will soon become the first state in the U.S. to call surfing an official high school sport.

Gov. Neil Abercrombie and state education officials said Monday that riding the waves will join the likes of football, basketball, volleyball and swimming as a state-sanctioned prep sport in public schools, starting as early as spring 2013.

"It's quite clear, when you think of Hawaii, you think of surfing," Abercrombie said with a scenic backdrop of sunbathers and surfers along Waikiki beach behind him. The news conference was held near the statue of island icon Duke Kahanamoku, an Olympic gold medal swimmer known as the father of modern surfing.

"Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing. From Duke Kahanamoku to the thousands of residents and visitors who surf both recreationally and competitively, the sport is rooted in our culture and way of life," the governor said.

The Aloha State is known for its world-class surf breaks and competitions. It is home to many pro surfers and has produced several world champions including Hawaii's Carissa Moore, who this summer became the youngest world champion at 18.

"I think it's awesome, and it will open doors for kids," said Moore, who welcomed the announcement. She said the sport taught her many life lessons growing up, such as hard work, perseverance, and time management.

"Surfing and riding a wave is so much like life. You fall down over and over again, but you keep picking yourself back up until you ride one all the way to the beach," Moore said. "I know that's kind of cheesy, but I think surfing is definitely a really good outlet for a lot of teens and young kids. It's a way to channel a lot of energy into something positive. It's just really awesome."

Hawaii has the only statewide public school district in the U.S., which means surfing will be offered across the islands.

The state Department of Education is working with the new appointed Board of Education on developing a plan to implement surfing. Judging will be done similar to pro surf meets and there will be an individual boys and girls champions, as well as team champions, similar to golfing, said BOE member Keith Amemiya, former head of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association.

The board approved surfing in May 2004, but funding, safety concerns, liability and other challenges prevented the sport from becoming sanctioned.

With the addition of surfing, students in Hawaii public schools will have 19 different sports, believed to be the most in the nation—from air riflery to bowling—producing 44 state champions every year.

Amemiya said the estimated cost of surfing in the first year was about $150,000, with $50,000 already committed through private sources.

The financially-strapped state is confident it will receive the necessary funding gauging from the interest from the community and corporate sponsors.

Life & Style

Teen hurt preparing for Cooper talk show

NEWYORK (AP)—Anderson Cooper's new daytime talk show is dealing with the fallout of a skateboarding accident that injured a teenager about to appear in an episode on the science of the teenage brain.

The news blog Gawker.com reported the teen hit his head while trying to film himself doing stunts on a skateboard and was in a coma.

Cooper's month-old syndicated talk show, "Anderson," confirmed Monday that it had asked its guest for video footage but wouldn't comment on what he had been asked to film. The show didn't provide the teen with the camera and learned of the injury on the morning he and his parents were to travel to New York for taping of the episode, according to a statement provided by spokeswoman Laura Mandel, who wouldn't answer questions about the accident.

Cooper said he was "very saddened" to hear about the accident and wanted to express his "deepest concerns for the teenager who was injured."

"I take this situation seriously," Cooper said, "and my thoughts and prayers for his health, well-being and recovery are with him and his family."

The segment was triggered by an article in the October issue of National Geographic magazine detailing the science behind brain development and how young people can often engage in maddening, self-destructive behavior, the show said.

The article, by David Dobbs, opens with an anecdote of Dobbs' 17-year-old son being caught by police driving 113 mph on a highway. Cooper's show initially sought to book Dobbs but later decided not to, and the magazine had nothing to do with the segment, National Geographic spokeswoman Beth Foster said.

Rakoff wins Thurber humor prize, gets $5,000

NEW YORK (AP)—Author David Rakoff has made the judges smile with his essay collection "Half Empty."

Rakoff won the Thurber Prize for American Humor on Monday night. Rakoff has written for The New York Times, Newsweek and other publications. He'll receive $5,000.

The other finalists were Mike Birbiglia for "Sleepwalk with Me and Other Painfully True Stories" and Rick Reilly for "Sports from Hell."

The award is named for humorist James Thurber, who was known for the short stories and cartoons he contributed to The New Yorker magazine. It first was presented in 1997.

Previous winners include Comedy Central host Jon Stewart and humorist David Sedaris.

Yahoo, ABC joining forces in news partnership

NEW YORK (AP)—ABC News and Yahoo Inc. are joining to deliver more online news to their audiences. With the deal, ABC News content will be prominently featured on Yahoo News, the most visited news website in the world. It will also show up on Yahoo's popular front page.

The partnership comes as a growing number of people turn to the Internet for news and other information. The two news organizations have a combined online audience of more than 100 million users per month in the U.S.—something ABC News president Ben Sherwood noted was "the size of the Super Bowl audience."

While, the deal helps ABC grow its online reach, Yahoo News can drive further traffic to its own site by featuring original, made-for-online content. ABC is launching Web-only news series, starting with a live interview with President Barack Obama by George Stephanopoulos Monday afternoon. That launches a series, "Newsmakers," with online interviews conducted by the likes of Diane Sawyer, Barbara Walters, Katie Couric, Robin Roberts and others.

Couric said the deal offers an "incredible opportunity to do extended interviews" and delve deeper into subjects without the constraints of "TV time."

Both companies will maintain editorial control of their own content.

Yahoo and ABC News have already had agreements to share content online, but the companies say the latest venture goes deeper than that. Sherwood called it a "game-changing day" for ABC News.

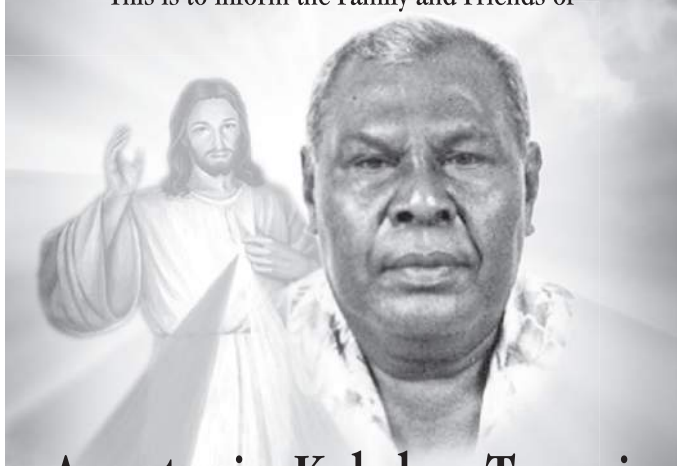
Outside of Monday's announcement, there hasn't been much reason for fanfare at Yahoo lately. The company has struggled to grow advertising revenue in the last few years, in part, because of competition from Google and Facebook. The company fired its CEO, Carol Bartz, last month, and is trying to decide whether to sell all or at least part of the company.

Colin Gillis, an analyst with BGP Financial Partners said Yahoo's alliance with ABC "is not going to fix Yahoo's problems." Gillis noted: "This is a relatively small event in the broader ecosystem of what is going on with Yahoo."

Yahoo's problem, Gillis believes, is that "it doesn't have a strong voice for a lot of its content," the way AOL has Huffington Post, for example. So the ABC deal will help the company share some of ABC's news brand. But Gillis pointed out that Yahoo's bigger issue is its leadership void.

Death and Funeral Announcement

This is to inform the Family and Friends of



Anastacio Kelulau Tomei

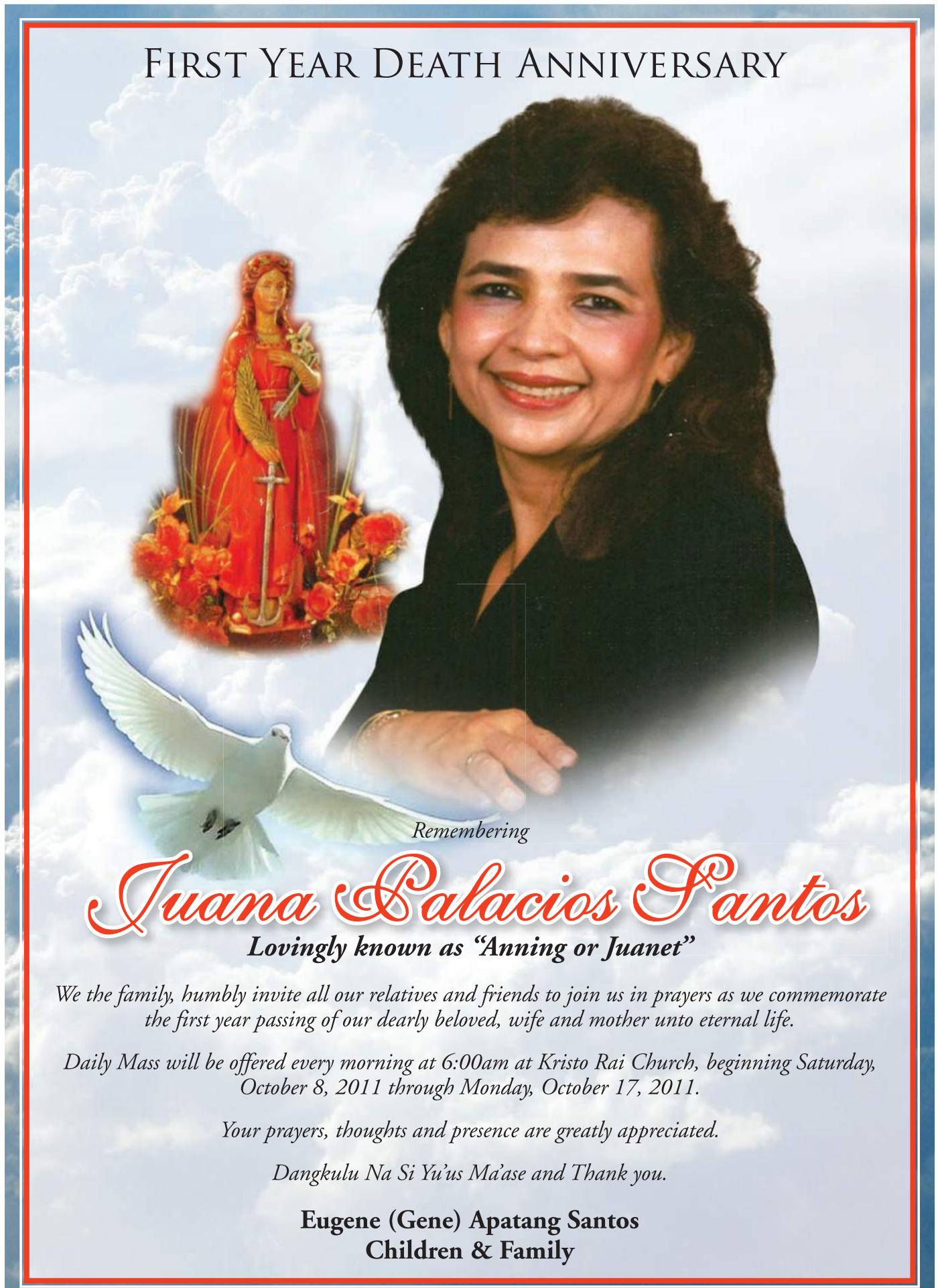
Has passed away on September 18, 2011

On Saturday, October 08, 2011 at 7:00 am, our beloved will be escorted from Commonwealth Health Center to his residence in Koblerville Subdivision House # K06. At 1:00 pm, his remains will be brought to Tanapag Cemetery for Burial.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Komkmal Mesulang
From his wife, children and family

FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Remembering

Juana Palacios Santos

Lovingly known as "Anning or Juanet"

We the family, humbly invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first year passing of our dearly beloved, wife and mother unto eternal life.

Daily Mass will be offered every morning at 6:00am at Kristo Rai Church, beginning Saturday, October 8, 2011 through Monday, October 17, 2011.

Your prayers, thoughts and presence are greatly appreciated.

Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank you.

Eugene (Gene) Apatang Santos
Children & Family

Kendrick, Gordon-Levitt go for 'awkward' in '50/50'

By ROGER MOORE
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

ORLANDO, Fla.—You do it by instinct. Somebody tells you something awful that's happened to them, and you reach out to comfort that person. A hand on the shoulder, a hug, even. But in some situations, that's a no-no.

Anna Kendrick learned this when she and Joseph Gordon-Levitt teamed up for "50/50." It's a comedy-drama about a young man who has discovered he has cancer. The film's title reveals his odds for survival. Kendrick plays the too-young counselor whose job is to help him adjust to the emotional roller coaster that accompanies a life-or-death struggle.

Kendrick, 26, studied with a therapist who is not much older than she is, "who told me all of the mistakes she made when she started out. I got a crash course in what not to do, and Katherine (her character), of course, does all of those things."

"Countertransference" is the big one. A psychotherapist should not develop emotional entanglements with a client. But another one is that human touch.

"It's simple compassion," Kendrick says. "It's a genuine, real urge we have. But they train you not to do that. Katherine forgets. That's my favorite part of the script, this awkward touching she does to comfort him. … It's just not necessary. If you're good at this sort of counseling, you can do it without being touchy-feely."

MCT

Anna Kendrick, from left, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Seth Rogen star in "50/50."

Gordon-Levitt, 30, appreciates the comic brittleness of those therapy scenes. "You have all sorts of conventions in play. This is supposed to be a comedy, so she could be the love interest," he says. "But we avoided the pitfalls and stereotypes, I think, because we weren't intent on making that relationship fit into those boxes. We wanted it to feel honest and awkward.

"We as a culture have a tendency to tiptoe around on eggshells around subjects like this. You don't know what to say. You don't know if it's OK to laugh if something's funny. You don't know if it's OK to smile, even. 'This is a serious thing. I should be sad all the time around him.'"

The comic Will Reiser scripted "50/50," which is based on his own battle with cancer and the awkwardness he encountered, from professionals (like Kendrick's character) and his best friend, played by Reiser's real-life pal Seth Rogen. The dramedy, opening Friday, is earning very good reviews, with Box Office Magazine noting the importance of those therapy moments, calling it "a soft and sweet cancer drama that hits with the force of an ill-timed hug."

It's not every film role that has the potential to be life-changing, but the stars of "50/50" know that sooner or later they will be dealing with the dilemmas that their characters face in both serious and in comical ways in the movie.

"People our age often haven't dealt with this before, and all they can say is, 'I'm just trying my best. I know it's not working,'" Kendrick says. "While we were making the film, I hadn't dealt with this subject in my real life at all. But my uncle passed away recently from cancer. I thought back to what Will (Reiser) said about Adam's desire to be treated like a normal human being. People forgot how to act around my uncle. They didn't know what to say. They felt like they had to say something profound, or give some advice. I made my mind up that I would treat my uncle the same way I always had."

Gordon-Levitt says he lost a friend to cancer when he was much younger, a friend "who has a little subtle tribute in the film's credits." But he found Reiser's script to have more than a few life lessons that he has absorbed.

"One of my takeaways from '50/50' is that it is OK to laugh. When something is funny, it's OK to acknowledge it. Will and Seth coped by finding humor in the situation, making jokes. And that's got to be healthy, if 'laughter is the best medicine.'

"But the main thing for me, spending all this time thinking about what it would be like facing an illness that you have a 50 percent chance of surviving, I came away grateful. Every day you're alive is a lovely thing, worth saying thank you for."

ER doc: Jackson physician never mentioned propofol

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson was clinically dead when he arrived at a hospital and two emergency room doctors said they thought it was futile to attempt to revive him. His doctor, however, insisted that they try.

Both doctors, testifying at Dr. Conrad Murray's involuntary manslaughter trial Monday, said Murray failed to tell them that he had been giving Jackson the anesthetic propofol or when Jackson had been medicated or stopped breathing.

"He said he did not have any concept of time, that he did not have a watch," said Dr. Thao Nguyen, a cardiologist at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, where Jackson was taken on June 25, 2009.

"Dr. Murray asked that we not give up easily and try to save Michael Jackson's life," she said. "...In Dr. Murray's mind, if we called it quits, we would be giving up easily."

Nguyen said Murray "sounded desperate and he looked devastated." But, she said, without knowing how much time had passed since he stopped breathing, resuscitation was a remote hope.

"It was not too little too late," she said. "It was a case of too late. I feared that time was not on Mr. Jackson's side."

Murray, 58, has pleaded not guilty. Authorities say Murray administered the fatal dose and acted recklessly by providing Jackson the drug as a sleep aid at his home when it is supposed to be administered in a hospital. The defense argues that Jackson gave himself an additional dose of the drug when Murray was out of the room.

Nguyen and Dr. Richelle Cooper, who oversaw Jackson's care in the emergency room, said Murray never mentioned that he had given the singer the propofol. They said he told them that he had given two doses of lorazepam, also known as Ativan, trying to get him to sleep.

"Did he ever mention propofol to you?" Deputy District Attorney David Walgren asked Nguyen.

"Absolutely not," she said in a firm voice.

Before leaving the stand, Nguyen said, "I've never heard of propofol being used outside of a hospital."

AP

Dr. Richelle Cooper, emergency room physician testifies during the Conrad Murray involuntary manslaughter trial in downtown Los Angeles, Friday, Sept. 30, 2011.

She said at least three medical personnel, including an anesthesiologist, should be present when the drug is given. Walgren asked her: "Have you ever heard of propofol being used in someone's private bedroom?"

Nguyen replied: "That would be a first. I've never heard of it."

In cross-examination, defense attorney Michael Flanagan was able to get Cooper to say that, even if they had known about the propofol, they could not have saved Jackson's life.

"Michael Jackson had died long before he became my patient," she said. "It is unlikely with that information I could have done something that would have changed the outcome."

She also said that the amount of propofol which Murray has since claimed he gave Jackson would not have put him to sleep and would have dissipated from his body in five to seven minutes.

Murray claimed he administered 25 milligrams. An autopsy showed that he died of an overdose of the drug.

Cooper said Jackson was "clinically dead" by the time he reached the hospital and she had advocated pronouncing him dead at his home when she received radio calls from paramedics describing his condition.

"Mr. Jackson was my patient and I didn't really have an explanation of why he was dead. I knew it would be a coroner's case," she said and suggested he should have been pronounced dead at 12:57 p.m. when the radio call came in.

But she yielded to Murray and Jackson was brought to the emergency room where more than 14 people worked on the effort to revive him.

"My assessment when he arrived was he was clinically dead and given the time—it was about an hour—I thought the attempt at rescue would be futile," Cooper said. She has said more than an hour of resuscitation efforts at the hospital did nothing to improve Jackson's condition.

Cooper also told jurors about trying to speak to Jackson's children after he was pronounced dead at the hospital at 2:26 p.m. "They were crying," Cooper said. "They were fairly hysterical."

Murray's phone records are a central part of the prosecution case. Two staffers from cell phone providers identified records of his calls on the day of Jackson's death.

Prosecutors intend to show records of Murray's phone calls and emails from the hours before Jackson's death to show that Murray had other things on his mind—getting his $150,000 a month deal to serve as Jackson's personal physician approved, running his medical practices and fielding calls from mistresses.

One of Murray's former patients, Las Vegas salesman Robert Russell, detailed one of those calls for jurors last week and the phone traced a call to his number.

Later in the case, prosecutors will further detail calls and messages Murray fielded that day, including several the physician apparently made to his girlfriend as he rode in the back of the ambulance on the way to the hospital.

Tony Bennett lands his first No. 1 on Billboard 200 chart

LOS ANGELES—Tony Bennett's 85th birthday was last month, but the legendary crooner got a major belated gift this week when his album "Duets II" took the top spot on the Billboard 200 chart.

The disc, which pairs the singer with some of music's biggest players, including Lady Gaga, Mariah Carey, Norah Jones, John Mayer, Aretha Franklin and Carrie Underwood, bowed at No. 1 after logging 179,000 copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

Bennett, a 14-time Grammy Award winner, made history as the oldest living artist to hit No. 1. He's also the oldest living artist to hit the Billboard Hot 100 chart after his duet with the late Amy Winehouse, "Body and Soul," debuted on the chart.

Bennett pushed Lady Antebellum to No. 2 as its "Own the Night" sold an additional 125,000 copies, while Adele's "21" maintained its staying power by clutching onto the No. 3 spot.

Other notable chart debuts include Demi Lovato's post-rehab disc, "Unbroken," opening at No. 4 with 96,000 copies sold, teeny boppers Mindless Behavior entering at No. 7 with their debut, "#1 Girl," and the soundtrack to Cameron Crowe's "Pearl Jam Twenty," which features rarities and unreleased tracks from the grunge rockers. It rounded out the top 10 after selling 27,000 units. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

Cowell regrets lofty 'X Factor' ratings projection

NEW YORK (AP)—Simon Cowell admits he regrets saying ratings less than 20 million for the U.S. version of "The X Factor" would be a failure.

The show's September debut earned 12.5 million viewers which was less than the premiere of the comedy "Modern Family", the leader of the night with 14.5 million viewers. "The X Factor" held those numbers for the second episode. In week two, ratings hovered around 12 million viewers for each episode.

"I'm not going to lie. I wanted 20 million when we launched," says Cowell, "but now I'm kind of back in the real world and I'm seeing this grow naturally. I'm as happy as I've ever been."

Cowell

The show is Cowell's baby. Besides being a judge on its panel, he is its creator and an executive producer.

"X Factor" has a lot of competition not only from other TV shows but in convincing viewers to invest in another TV talent competition like Fox's "American Idol" and NBC's "The Voice," which averaged 12.6 million viewers an episode in its first season earlier this year.

Cowell says he "got a buzz" when he heard about "The Voice."

"We're not in Russia where you have one show. This is life. If you're competitive and it spurs you on, I kind of get excited by it."

This week on "The X Factor," contestants will advance to the boot camp round of the series. Singers travel to Los Angeles to once again sing for the judges and a live audience as they are critiqued on various aspects of performing.

"The X Factor" airs Wednesdays and Thursdays on Fox at 8:00 p.m. ET/PT.

Spock attends his last 'Star Trek' convention

ROSEMONT, Ill. (AP)—Leonard Nimoy has attended his final "Star Trek" convention.

The 80-year-old actor, best-known for playing Mr. Spock in the original TV series that began in September 1966, formed four fingers into a V for Vulcan sign and intoned to fans Spock's most famous phrase: "Live long and prosper."

Nimoy has said the convention in suburban Chicago celebrating the 45th anniversary of "Star Trek" would be his last.

He spoke for an hour about his life and career, and thanked fans for their support over the years. Some held signs saying: "We love you Leonard! Live long & prosper."

Creation Entertainment organizes the "Star Trek" conventions. Company CEO Adam Malin says the company has toured and collaborated with Nimoy for nearly three decades and that Nimoy "will be missed."

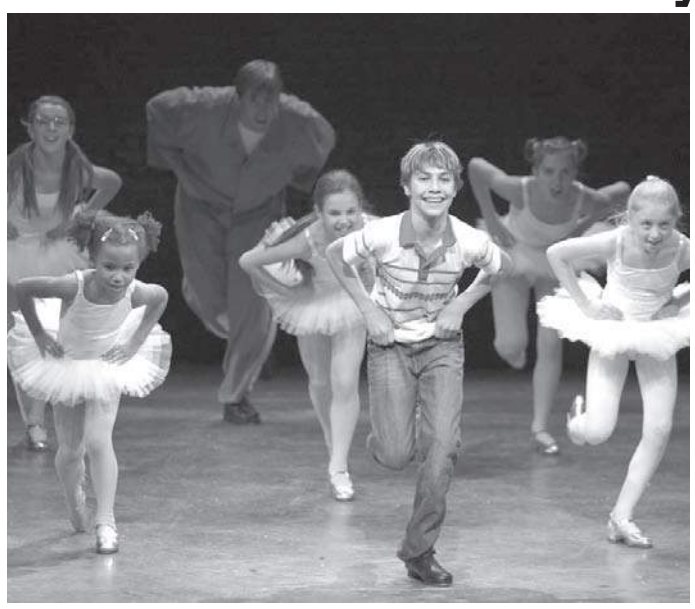
'Billy Elliot' to close on Broadway in January

NEW YORK (AP)—"Billy Elliot the Musical" is planning its last dance on Broadway.

Producers announced Monday that the Tony Award-winning show will play its final performance on Jan. 8, ending a more than three-year run at the Imperial Theatre on 45th Street that will have included 1,304 regular performances and 40 previews.

The musical, which recouped its $18 million investment in 14 month, is based on the popular 2000 movie about a young boy who longs to dance ballet but lives in the bleak coal-mining area of Northern England. His story is set against the backdrop of a bitter miners' strike.

The show took its time jumping from a London stage to New York but was greeted with critical acclaim when it did. It had one of the biggest casts on Broadway and multiple young actors playing the role of Billy.


AP

In this file theater publicity image released by Barlow-Hartman Public Relations, Kiril Kulish, center, plays the title character in the musical "Billy Elliot," playing at Broadway's Imperial Theatre in New York.

In recent weeks, the theater has been between 70 percent and 80 percent full, but the box office has only taken in about 50 percent of its potential because of discounting. Last week, according to The Broadway League, the musical took in $718,015, out of a potential $1,327,900.

Producers estimate that the show has been seen by 1,659,867 theatergoers to date since it opened in November 2008 on Broadway. Fans will still be able to see the show in London's West End, where it is currently playing its seventh year, and on tour across America. It is currently in St. Louis and will be in Philadelphia and Rochester, N.Y., next month.

Stephen Daldry, who directed the film, did the same for the stage version. Lee Hall adapted his own screenplay and wrote the lyrics, and pop star Elton John wrote the music. The musical won the 2009 Tony Award for best musical as well as nine other Tonys. Globally, "Billy Elliot the Musical" has played to 7.5 million people and has grossed $600 million.

Jennifer Aniston tours breast cancer center

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia (AP)—Actress Jennifer Aniston, lending her support to Breast Cancer Awareness month, listened to breast cancer survivors share stories of early diagnosis and treatment while touring a new cancer center just outside of Washington.

Aniston joined the wife of the vice president, Jill Biden, and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to visit the Inova Breast Care Center in Alexandria, Virginia. The facility will open next week.

Aniston is hosting a screening Monday evening of the Lifetime movie "Five," an anthology of five short films about the impact of breast cancer. The "Friends" star directed one of the short films.

Jill Biden has been involved in breast cancer awareness for nearly 20 years. She started a program in Delaware to educate high school girls about early detection.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Argentines pick cowboy film to compete for Oscar

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—A film about a guilt-wracked assassin who spends the rest of his life on horseback in penitence after killing a man will represent Argentina in the competition to be nominated as one of the best foreign-language films in the next Academy Awards. Argentine film academy president Juan Jose Campanella says "Aballay, el hombre sin miedo" (Aballay, a man without fear) by Fernando Spiner has received 22 of 66 votes from academy members, edging out the favorite, "Un cuento Chino" (A Chinese Tale), starring Ricardo Darin. Spiner told reporters on Monday that he feels enormously flattered to be nominated. He said among the film's merits is that "it's a very Argentine story, and it includes great acting."

Rapper Tone Loc pleads no contest to charges

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Los Angeles County prosecutors say rapper Tone Loc has pleaded no contest to assault weapon possession and domestic violence charges stemming from an arrest earlier this year. The rapper, whose real name is Anthony Smith, entered the plea Monday in a Burbank, Calif. courthouse. Smith pleaded no contest to one count each of possession of an assault weapon and corporal injury to a spouse. Superior Court Judge Patrick Hegarty sentenced Smith to one day in county jail, three years of probation, 30 days community service and 52 weeks of anger management counseling. Known for the hits "Wild Thing" and "Funky Cold Medina," Smith was arrested on June 18.

Sondheim, dinosaurs combine for NY charity gala

NEW YORK (AP)—Clues devised by composer Stephen Sondheim prompted hundreds of people, including Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick, to scamper through the American Museum of Natural History as part of a benefit treasure hunt among the dinosaur bones. Seats to Monday night's event, called "A Little Jurassic Treasure Hunt," cost $1,500 and included dinner in the Rose Center for Earth and Space and a concert by Tony Award winner Barbara Cook and Tony nominee Raul Esparza. Sondheim, a legendary puzzle maker besides being a cherished songwriter, helped celebrate the 20th anniversary of Friends In Deed, a nonprofit crisis center based in SoHo that provides free emotional and spiritual support for anyone diagnosed with life-threatening physical illnesses.

Wife's past experience looms large in present marriage

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I met my husband, "Jerome," two years ago. During our courtship, he helped me to find faith. Because of that, I wanted a completely honest relationship with him and confessed to a "less than moral" experience that occurred several years before I met him. Apparently he was able to accept it, because he proposed and we have been married for several months.

Recently, however, Jerome has been saying it's bothering him and he doesn't know how to let it go. I'm angry and hurt that something that happened long ago is now causing problems in my marriage. It has made me question why I was honest with him.

I'm afraid Jerome will never forgive me. He says he feels as though he has to compete with my past and doesn't feel he can live up to it. How do I tackle this problem? I can't change my past, I can't take back what I told him, and I can't do anything to change my husband. Please help.

HAUNTED BY THE PAST

DEAR HAUNTED: First, stop apologizing. You are the sum total of all your experiences, and that's the woman he married. Tell your husband you will not accept anything less than marriage counseling NOW. He knows about your "experience" because you leveled with him. Make it clear that this isn't a contest, and he's all you want in a man. If he can't accept it, there is no basis for a marriage, and frankly, little hope for a future together.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been invited to a wedding. The invitation included explicit instructions on what is appropriate attire. Ladies are "not to wear anything tight or revealing, or that doesn't cover chest, back, knees and shoulders." One of my friends said she wouldn't go to such a wedding. Another said, "I don't own anything that meets their dress code."

We are all three mature women who have always dressed conservatively. What's your take on this? Am I right to feel insulted?

CLOTHING-CHALLENGED IN OREGON

DEAR CLOTHING-CHALLENGED: Not necessarily. It's possible that the house of worship where the wedding will be held—as well as the families involved—may be conservative or orthodox, which is why the women are being asked to cover themselves. If you feel the dress code is too much of an imposition, you should politely decline the invitation.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My granddaughter, who is 18, had a child last year. She kept the baby and dropped out of school. She is now working and has returned to school to get her GED. My husband has always loved her and helps her financially.

My problem is she has twice stolen from a fund I keep for our church. Although she is the only one who could have done it, my husband refuses to believe it. I now insist on locking everything up.

Abby, if she had asked for the money either time, her grandfather would have given it to her. I think she gets an adrenaline rush from stealing. What can I do about this?

AT A LOSS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR AT A LOSS: Where are your granddaughter's parents? Are they aware of what has been going on? If not, please inform them because if she's stealing from you for the adrenaline rush, she is probably also doing it elsewhere. Someone needs to see that the girl receives counseling before her behavior lands her in serious trouble. And in the meantime, she should not be left alone in your home.

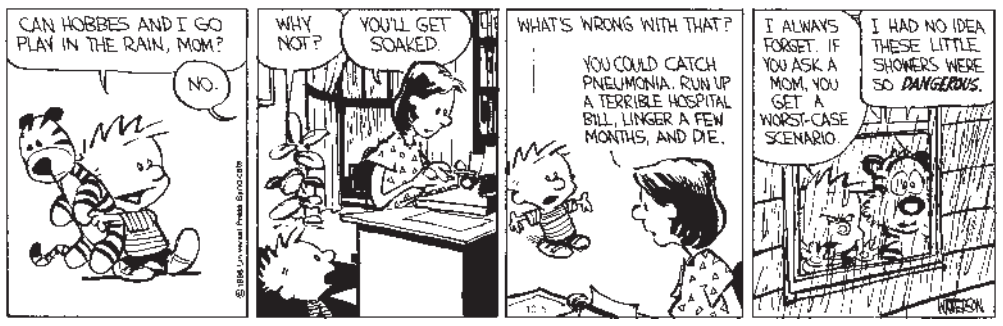
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

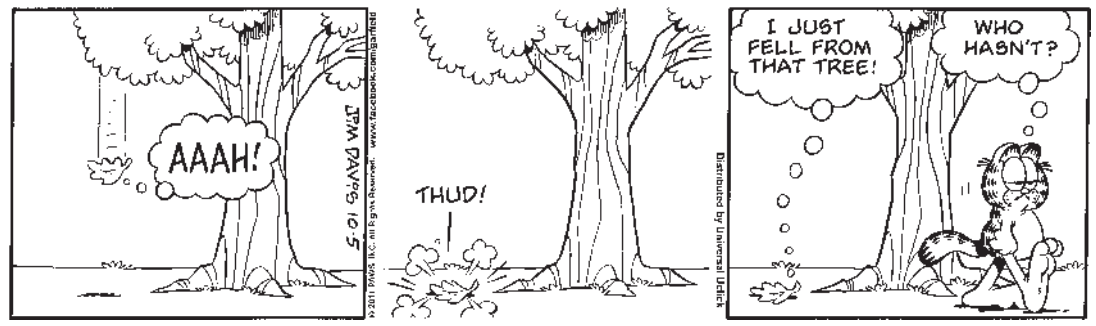
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CAN HOBBES AND I GO PLAY IN THE RAIN, MOM?
NO.
WHY NOT?
YOU'LL GET SOAKED.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
YOU COULD CATCH PNEUMONIA. RUN UP A TERRIBLE HOSPITAL BILL, LINGER A FEW MONTHS, AND DIE.
I ALWAYS FORGET. IF YOU ASK A MOM, YOU GET A WORST-CASE SCENARIO.
I HAD NO IDEA THESE LITTLE SHOWERS WERE SO DANGEROUS.

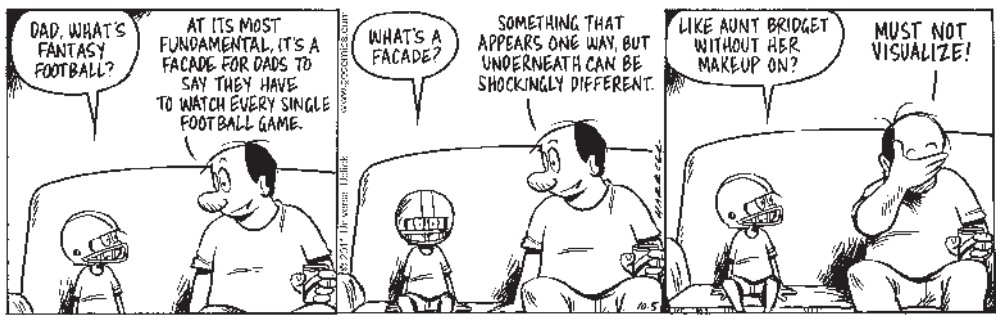
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



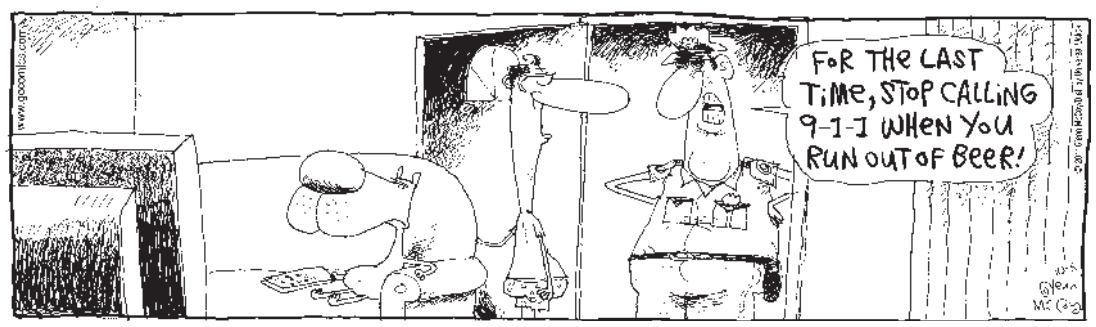
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DAD, WHAT'S FANTASY FOOTBALL?
AT ITS MOST FUNDAMENTAL, IT'S A FACADE FOR DADS TO SAY THEY HAVE TO WATCH EVERY SINGLE FOOTBALL GAME.
WHAT'S A FACADE?
SOMETHING THAT APPEARS ONE WAY, BUT UNDERNEATH CAN BE SHOCKINGLY DIFFERENT.
LIKE AUNT BRIDGET WITHOUT HER MAKEUP ON?
MUST NOT VISUALIZE!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

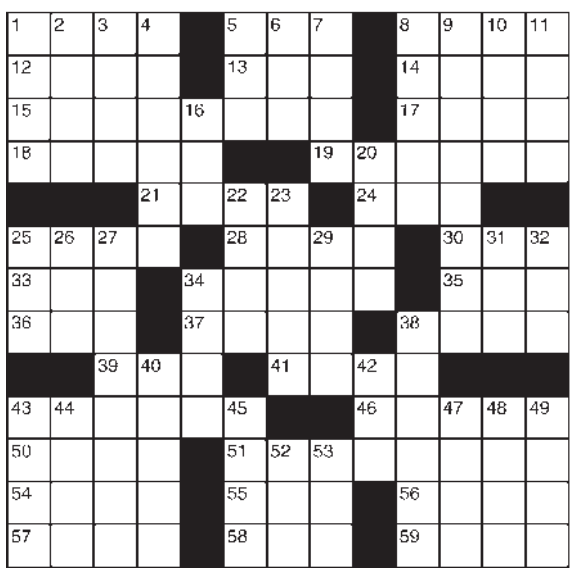
ACROSS
1 007
5 Swelled head
8 Acknowledge
12 Reed instrument
13 Cattle call
14 Options list
15 Bean spiller?
17 Curved lines
18 Left the chair
19 Nickelodeon spillages
21 Afternoon affairs
24 Lennon's lady
25 Use a paper towel
28 Scorch
30 Can. neighbor
33 The whole thing
34 Aquatic flora
35 Kennedy or Koppel
36 Crafty
37 Greenish blue
38 At the home of (Fr.)
39 It's the word
41 Lemon coating
43 Oklahoman
46 Passion
50 Piece of work
51 Cape Cod city
54 Greek cheese
55 Lamb's dam
56 Apportion (out)
57 In need of liniment
58 Gender
59 Old portico

DOWN
1 Goes up and down
2 Death notice
3 NASA scrub
4 Lower in rank
5 Ostrich's cousin
6 Obtained
7 Ahs' mates
8 Forcefully
9 Martini ingredient
10 Erstwhile
11 Wimpy sort
16 Rhyming tribute
20 Unmatched
22 With skill
23 "— and spice and ..."
25 Existed
26 Under the weather
27 Old Chrysler
29 Hindu princess
31 Witness
32 Woodshaping tool
34 Pinnacle
38 Data holders
40 Recant
42 "Platoon" setting
43 Couch
44 Oil cartel
45 Deli loaves
47 Song for two
48 "Beetle Bailey" dog
49 Perlman of "Cheers"
52 Great wonder
53 Actor Harrison

Solution time: 21 mins.

E	G	A	D	■	O	F	F	■	S	H	O	E
S	A	G	A	■	B	O	A	■	H	O	U	R
T	R	O	P	H	I	E	S	■	E	A	R	N
■	■	■	P	I	T	■	H	O	A	R	S	F
B	O	R	E	S	■	P	I	N	T	■	■	■
E	V	E	R	■	T	R	O	C	H	E	E	S
L	E	D	■	C	A	I	N	E	■	D	I	E
I	R	O	U	B	L	E	S	■	S	I	R	E
■	■	■	N	E	E	D	■	U	T	T	E	R
C	A	V	E	R	N	■	B	R	O	■	■	■
A	R	I	A	■	T	R	O	I	L	F	Y	S
P	I	E	S	■	E	O	N	■	I	D	E	A
E	D	D	Y	■	D	E	N	■	D	O	N	T

Yesterday's answer 10-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jesse Eisenberg, 28; Kate Winslet, 36; Mario Lemieux, 46; Guy Pearce, 44.

Happy Birthday: Emotional matters will escalate if you don't deal with each issue as it arises. Don't leave anything to chance. Compromise to keep the peace and to bring about the changes that will make your personal and professional life run smoothly. Balance will be required. Your numbers are 9, 16, 25, 28, 36, 41, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Look for the good in others. Doors will open if you are helpful. Participating in a group will lead to something worthwhile and provide you with an exhilarating challenge. Do your best and reap the rewards. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't feel guilty for not making a contribution you cannot afford. Focus on what will benefit you and the ones you love. Pick up skills if it will help you get ahead professionally. Work hard and avoid arguments. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Offer services you enjoy providing. You can get ahead financially if you start a part-time business or apply for jobs that will pay more for what you have to offer. Love is in the stars, and good fortune will be connected to a partnership. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Joint ventures must be monitored carefully. Not everyone will be upfront about how much of an investment will be made. You are better off contributing to your personal property, possessions or self-improvement. Don't count on others and you won't be disappointed. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your charm will grab attention and raise interest in your pursuits. Listen to what others are willing to offer and you will be able to finalize a deal that will support your goals. Romance is highlighted, and a promise can be made. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Keep your eye on legal, financial and personal situations that have the potential to change rapidly. Ask an expert for help if necessary. Now is not the time to risk what you've worked so hard to acquire. A change of lifestyle or philosophy is apparent. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Emotional issues will cloud your day if you aren't careful in handling a situation you face at home or with an important relationship. Someone may try to persuade you to make a promise that you will have difficulty honoring. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A situation you face will be filled with hidden aspects. Go directly to the source and get all the facts straight, then make a move. Under- or overestimating a situation is likely if you aren't observant and cautious. A secret connection will lead to trouble. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Call the shots, make a move and invest in you. Lending a hand to an organization with ties to an industry you want to explore will lead to new opportunities. Love is in the stars, and a partnership will lead to greater stability. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Someone who wants to manipulate you will be misleading. Check the facts before you move forward with an idea, plan or philosophy that may not suit you. If someone overreacts, take a pass and move on. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You can have it all if you stay focused on your goals. Take advantage of any offer that comes your way. Personal and professional partnerships will be worth considering. Good fortune is in the stars, and dealing with legal matters will bring you benefits. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Keep an open mind and be willing to share. A partnership will be your ticket to opportunity. Team up with someone willing to contribute to your goals. Let your intuition guide you and you will find the success you are searching for. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, caring and a serious and earnest competitor.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6	2					
	5		7					
7				8				1
9	1	5			3	4	6	
		7						8
		3						2
		1	6	7	4	3	5	9
		4		9		7		6
		9		3		2		4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	4	6	2	1	9	8	7	5
1	5	8	7	4	6	9	2	3
7	9	2	3	8	5	6	4	1
9	1	5	8	2	3	4	6	7
4	2	7	9	6	1	5	3	8
8	6	3	4	5	7	1	9	2
2	8	1	6	7	4	3	5	9
5	3	4	1	9	2	7	8	6
6	7	9	5	3	8	2	1	4

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MARINE ECOSYSTEMS **Solution: 7 letters**

C	S	D	K	N	D	H	S	R	M	T	I	D	E	S
O	R	E	A	M	O	E	O	E	E	N	E	R	G	Y
M	L	E	A	M	H	O	T	R	S	L	L	U	G	H
P	C	P	E	S	L	S	N	S	A	S	Ⓢ	L	S	R
O	L	S	R	F	Y	S	Y	I	A	Ⓢ	A	I	O	O
U	L	A	O	S	P	L	R	G	Ⓐ	R	F	N	S	C
N	M	O	N	E	H	T	R	Ⓑ	O	R	T	R	D	K
D	D	S	C	T	S	E	R	C	E	L	E	N	U	Y
S	A	I	I	E	D	E	A	T	O	T	O	D	O	M
N	E	Q	R	N	T	O	T	L	T	A	E	C	A	C
S	O	R	U	A	A	U	G	I	T	A	S	M	E	W
A	E	O	W	A	B	G	R	F	R	H	M	T	S	K
T	L	A	G	E	T	C	R	T	I	A	E	R	A	R
F	E	G	L	A	E	I	H	O	L	S	C	U	P	L
S	T	L	A	S	L	D	C	S	W	E	H	C	I	R

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Alga, Aquatic, Bass, Butterfish, Coastal, Compounds, Contrasted, Coral, Critters, Deep, Dogfish, Earth, Ecology, Energy, Floor, Flounder, Food, Grow, Gulls, Health, Homes, Kelp, Lagoon, Mammals, Marshes, Ocean, Organism, Plant, Rare, Reef, Rich, Rocky, Salt, Sandy, Scup, Seals, Seas, Seawater, Species, System, Terns, Terrestrial, Tides, Turtle, Wade, Weed

Yesterday's Answer: Desire

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR SALE

09' White-Toyota Camry • Mileage-24,500 • Price-$15,500
09' Toyota Corrolla • Mileage-33,000 • Price-$12,500
Both in EXCELLENT condition! If interested Call 287-7676.

EMPLOYMENT

1-hairdresser or hairstylist
1-housekeeping or domestic helper
Submit resume at LKR Rosa Corp.
Katchu-Tataga St., San Antonio
Contact Rosa at tel.: 235-7850

US workers only. Optician, Medical Biller, Maint. & Repair Worker, Domestic Worker. Apply in person @ Marianas Eye Institute. No phone calls pls.

1 Barber, w/ 2 yrs experience, pleasing personality w/ good moral character. Inquiry, Call Genoveva's Hair Power, Inc. at 234-6378 or 234-9226.

3 fishermen bottom, trolling and diving. 6 mos. experience, minimum salary. Send resume to SFC P.O.Box 10005 Saipan, MP 96950

2-All Around Beauticians
Modern Hair Salon & Barber Shop
San Jose. Call Mau at 234-1440

1 Electronic Technician. $5.05-$6.50/hr & 1 Commercial Cleaner $5.05-$6.50/hr for inquiry call Cleo 234-9199. Champstar Trading Corporation

8 Janitors & Cleaners. Salary-$5.05-$5.50/hr. MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. Email resume to: admin@mtosaipan.com

2 Generator Techinician. Salary-$5.05 - $14.00/hr. Elliott Systems LLC. Email resume to: jeff@elliottsystemsllc.com

1-General Manager $1,800.00-$ 2,500.00/mo. Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or BA . PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1 – Accountant $ 7.25-$ 13.00/hr. Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT

1–Real Estate Appraiser $7.25 - $11.00/hr. Must be Licensed General Appraiser. PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1 Office Manager $5.05-$5.50/hr. w/ 5 yrs exp in PIII/Quick Books Acctg. PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

3–Bookkeepers $5.05-$5.50/hr. w/ 2 yrs exp of PII/Quick Books Acctg. PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1–Insurance Sales Agent $5.05-$5.50/hr. w/ minimum 2 yrs experience . PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

3–Janitors & Cleaners. Salary - $5.05 - $5.50/hr. PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1 General Manager $2,000.00-$2,500.00/mo. At least 5 years experience . Dae Dong Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1 Accountant $7.25 - $12.69/hr. Bachelors Degree in Accounting or BA. Pacific Dev. Inc. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1 Travel Guide $7.25-$8.92/hr. At least 5 years experience. Pacific Dev. Inc. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

1 Tour Guide Salary - $7.25-$8.00/hr. At least 5 years experience. Pacific Dev. Inc. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

2- Fisherman (Bottom / Trolling / Diving), at least 6 mos. experience required • Minimum Salary. Send you resume to SMJ Corporation, P.O. Box 503944 Saipan MP 96950

1–Automotive Electrician. Salary$5.05-$8.25 per hour. Minimum of 5 yrs. experience. Email resume to saipan@aicconstruction.com

1–Estimator. Salary $ 1,200.00 - $ 1,824.00 per month. Civil Engineer / Estimator degree required. Email resume to saipan@aicconstruction.com

1–Construction Supervisor. Salary $5.05 - $8.52 per hour. Minimum of 5 yrs. experience. Email resume to saipan@aicconstruction.com

1–Heavy Equipment Mechanic. Salary $5.05 per hour. Minimum of 5 yrs. experience. Email resume to saipan@aicconstruction.com

2–Project Engineer. Salary $1,200.00-$3,000.00 per month. Civil Engineer/ Project Engineer College Degree required. Email resume to saipan@aicconstruction.com

EMPLOYMENT

1 –Welder. Salary $5.05 per hour. Minimum of 5 yrs. experience. Email resume to saipan@aicconstruction.com

1–Accountant. Salary $1,200.00 - $2,250.00 per month. College Degree required with 5 yrs. experience. Email resume to saipan@aicconstruction.com

1–Painter. Salary $ 5.05 per hour Minimum of 5 yrs. experience. Email resume to saipan@aicconstruction.com

4–Heavy Equipment Operator. Salary $5.05 - $6.75 per hour. Minimum of 5 years experience. Email resume to saipan@aicconstruction.com

1–Architect. Salary $1,200.00 - $2,250.00 per month. College degree required with 5 yrs. experience. Email resume to saipan@aicconstruction.com

2-Farmer, 1 yr Aquaculture experience preferred. Call (670) 287-1170 or send resume to Matsumoto Trust at P.O. Box 5057 CHRB Saipan, MP 96950

ASC Construction is looking for 1-Project Manager-$16.92/hr.-$17.00/hr. Must have Bachelor's Degree in Engineering. Min. 10 years experience as Project Manager. Mail resume to PMB 885 Box 10001, Saipan MP 96950. No phone calls please

ASC Construction is looking for the following (1) Bookkeeper, (1) Carpenter, (1) Electrician, (1) Plumber, (3) HE Operator. Interested applicants must mail their resume to PMB 885 Box 10001, Saipan MP 96950. No phone calls please.

(2) Assistant Managers, (4) Supervisors. At least two years experience as Asst Manager or Supervisor. Must have valid HACCP Certification or equivalent Food Safety Training. No phone calls please. E-mail resume to psgspn@gmail.com RE: BARNY'S

(2) Bookkeepers. At least 2 yrs experience in food service business accounting. Knowledgeable in PIII Acctg Inventory & Costing. No phone calls please. E-mail resume to psgspn@gmail.com RE: BARNY'S

EMPLOYMENT

(2) Stock Clerks. At least 2 yrs experience food service business. Must have knowledge of HACCP Food Industry Safety Procedures. No phone calls please. E-mail resume to psgspn@gmailcom RE: BARNY'S

(1) Production Control Coordinator.Must be knowledgeable in setting up computer systems program. Must be HACCP Certified or knowledgeable in Food Safety Industry Grade Process. No phone calls please. E-mail resume to psgspn@gmailcom RE: BARNY'S

(3) Cooks, (4) Assistant Cooks, (9) Food Prep Workers. At least 2 yrs experience in Volume Food Production of 500 or more pax. Must have knowledge of HACCP food prep procedure. No phone calls please. E-mail resume to psgspn@gmailcom RE: BARNY'S

(12) Cafeteria Food Attendants. Must have knowledge of HACCP procedure in food service. Must have a valid BEH food handler's certificate. No phone calls please. E-mail resume to psgspn@gmailcom RE: BARNY'S

BUSH CUTTER REPAIR
Only **$30 Service Promo**
We buy & sell used bush cutters.
For lawnmower small engine
Please call **233-5641**
Open: 7 Day a Week • 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

WANTED
FARMER
at least 5 years experience
Please call 233-6183

Venture Transportation Corp
is currently seeking a
FULL TIME AUTO MECHANIC
Maintain Fleet of 30+ cars
Clean Driving Record • Auto Mechanic s Knowledge • Minimum of 5 Years experience • Fluent in English and Japanese preferred
Fax resume to 288-3347 or mail to PMB 699 P.O. Box 100001 Saipan MP 96950

MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr., Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

BOOKKEEPER

Associate's Degree in Accounting and a minimum of 2 years experience in general accounting procedures with emphasis in accounts receivables & payables are required. Must possess work-related skill, knowledge & experience in purchasing, inventory and bank reconciliation. Proficient in various computer software: MS Excel, Word, Outlook and ACCPAC/SBT or similar accounting systems

HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Associate's Degree in Sales & Marketing or a minimum of 3 years work related experience are required. Preferably with F&B/restaurant operations and menu preparation experience. Ability to speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Nihonngo or Korean language will be advantage. A valid driver's license is required along with a clean driving record. Availability to work on evenings, holidays and weekends is also required.

Interested applicants must have their own reliable transportation. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience.

Interested applicants must submit their application and/or resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. building, Lower Base, by October 14, 2011. Applications may also be sent to: maxk@pticom.com. The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

D&Q is an equal opportunity employer and has a drug free work environment.
Pre-employment and random drug testing may be required.

POLARIS DEVELOPMENT CORP. is looking for:

- **CARPENTER (3 positions)** - With background and experience in structural construction, in plumbing & masonry.
- **ALL AROUND BEAUTICIAN (6 positions)** - Must have knowledge in all services provided in a Salon
- **MASSEUSE (3 positions)**
- **BOOK KEEPER (1 position)** - with Bachelor degree in Accounting and with background in financial preparation.

All applicants must have at least 2 years experience and must have excellent knowledge and skills on the category they are applying for.

APPLY IN PERSON AND BRING RESUME

"Any applicant tentatively selected for these positions are required to submit and pass a drug test screening prior to employment."

For more info please call Ms. Jojo Faller at 235-5599, 483-1971 or 285-0019.

WANTED AVON REPRESENTATIVE
and earn up to 20% to 50% commission. Please call Ms. Jojo Faller at 323-4455 or 483-1971.

Grace Christian Academy Tinian Campus
is looking for:

2 Elementary School Teachers and 2 Junior High Teachers – Full Time
Qualifications:
- Must be a holder of Bachelor's degree with at least 2 years teaching experience, preferably in a Christian School
- Must be willing to submit previous employer reference (non-relative) providing a proven track record for timeliness, excellent work ethic and job/personal responsibility.
- Must accept without verbal or mental reservations both the Statement of Faith and the education/doctrinal beliefs and objectives of the school (Grace Christian Academy) and the church (Tinian Christian Assembly of God)
- Must Adhere to all school and church policies and procedures and be willing to perform various other duties outside a classroom setting if need be.

Salary: $5.05/hour

1 School Custodian worker – Part Time – 25 hours per week
Qualifications:
- Must have a high school diploma or equivalent and at least 2 years experience as a school custodian having experience maintaining/overseeing all day to day facility operations of a school including grounds keeping, general building maintenance and various other school and student related responsibilities.
- Must be willing to submit previous employer references (non-relative) providing a proven track record for timeliness, excellent work ethic and job/personal responsibility.
- Must accept without verbal or mental reservations both the Statement of Faith and the educational/doctrinal beliefs and objectives of the school (Grace Christian Academy) and the church (Tinian Christian Assembly of God)
- Must adhere to all school and church policies and procedures and be willing to perform various other duties outside regular job duties if need be.

Salary: $5.05/hour

Applications may be downloaded at www.gca-nmi.com
Please submit completed applications to:
Grace Christian Academy – Tinian / PO Box 520422 by mail or in person
GCA is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International

Grace Christian Academy Rota Campus
is looking for:

1 Preschool Teacher
Holder of high School Diploma and at least 2 years teaching experience preferably in a Christian School

1 Elementary School Teacher
Holder of Bachelor's degree in education or related field; at least 2 years teaching experience preferably in a Christian School;
- Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
- Must adhere to all school policies and procedures;

Salary: $5.05/hour

Interested applicants may download application form at www.gca-nmi.com
Submit completed applications to:
Grace Christian Academy, Sinapalo 1, Rota, MP 96951
GCA is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International

CAFÉ at the PARK

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: October 3, 2011 Closing Date: October 7, 2011

Position:	(1) Chef
Salary:	$1,200-1,300 per month
Job Qualification:	High school diploma, minimum of eight years work-related experience.
Position:	(3) Cook
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	High school diploma, minimum of three years work-related experience.
Position:	(1) Supervisor, Dining/Restaurant
Salary:	$5.30 per hour
Job Qualification:	High school diploma; minimum of three years work-related experience.
Position:	(3) Waiter/Waitress
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	Minimum of six months work-related experience. Positive attitude towards customers and knowledgeable about hygiene and safety standards.

You may pick up an application at Café at the Park, across American Memorial Park.
P.O. Box 503007 • Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. 233-1010/1012

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

WHATZIT Solution: More haste, less speed

Cow and Goat FOR SALE Call: 483-0789

Job Announcement

Open Date: Oct. 05, 2011
Closing Date: Oct. 12, 2011

1-Sewing Machine Operator ($5.05/hr)

Requirements:
- With at least 5 years experience
- Must know how to operate and tend to sewing machine, to join, reinforce, decorate and perform related operation in the sewing garment and other related fabrics.

Mail Resume to **JMILYNN SPORTS WEAR**
P.O. Box 504284 Saipan, MP 96950

For more info please call
Ms. Ester Sablan at 989-7623

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1 – Satellite IT Technician / Safety Officer - $ 15.76/hr.
1 – Electronic Tech Maintenance II - $ 15.05/hr.
1 – Automotive Mechanic - $ 13.06/hr
2 – Engineering Technician I - $ 14.62/hr
1 – Power Plant Electrician - $ 14.99/hr
1 – Facilities Supervisor - $ 18.36/hr
2 – Rigger, Antenna - $ 15.43/hr

Please send your resume to Rome Research Corporation
P.O. Box 506480 Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: 234-5080

FRANKIE'S AUTO AND TOW SERVICES
JOB VACANY ANNOUNCEMENT

Full Time Mechanic
- Must be able to diagnose engine problems accurately, make repairs and perform maintenance work on a vehicle.
- Must be knowledgeable in over-hauling vehicle engine.
- Must have knowledge in electrical and transmission repair
- 6-7 years of work experience is required

Interested applicants must pick up an application at Frankie's Auto and Tow Services in As Perdido or contact telephone numbers (670) 235-4448/287-4448

Vacancy Announcement

Caregiver/housekeeper/office maintenance. - Cleans and maintains business office & residence. Also monitors daily medications, prepares meals and laundry for a senior citizen with mild disabilities. Separate living accommodations provided. 3 to 5 years experience preferable.

Interested US applicants call 233-3339 on weekends or 233-6011 between 7PM and 8PM weekdays. Please leave a voice mail name and number. McPhetres Consulting.

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

TEACHING POSITIONS
- High School Advanced Placement English and Math
- High School Science (Physics and Chemistry)
- High School Mandarin

STAFF POSITIONS
- Office Manager
- General Cleaner

If interested bring resume and police clearance to Saipan International Schools. No telephone calls please.

HAFADAI BEACH HOTEL

P.O. BOX 500338 SAIPAN, MP 96950-0338 • TEL: (670) 234-6495 to 98 • FAX: (670) 237-2529

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Open Date: September 29, 2011 **Close Date: October 5, 2011**

Position:	**(1) Manager, Sales & Mkgt.**
Salary:	$2,500.00 monthly
Job Qualification:	AA Degree / College Graduated / (10) Years Experience. Japanese Speaking.
Position:	**(1) Asst. Manager, Sales & Mkgt.**
Salary:	$1,850.00 monthly
Job Qualification:	AA Degree / College Graduated / (10) Years Experience. Korean Speaking.
Position:	**(1) Executive Chef**
Salary:	$2,350.00 monthly
Job Qualification:	College Graduated / (10) Years Experience. Japanese Speaking.
Position:	**(1) Sous Chef**
Salary:	$1,850.00 monthly
Job Qualification:	College Graduated / (10) Years Experience.
Position:	**(1) Supervisor, Reservation**
Salary:	$8.00 per hour
Job Qualification:	minimum AA Degree / College Graduated / (5) Years Experience. Japanese Speaking.
Position:	**(2) Supervisor, Front Desk**
Salary:	$8.00 per hour
Job Qualification:	minimum AA Degree / College Graduated / (10) Years Experience. Japanese Speaking.
Position:	**(1) Supervisor, Dining Room**
Salary:	$7.60 per hour
Job Qualification:	College Graduated / (5) Years Experience. Chinese Speaking.
Position:	**(1) Asst. Manager, Maintenance**
Salary:	$1,850.00 monthly
Job Qualification:	College Graduated/Mechanical Engineer (5) Years Experience.
Position:	**(3) Accountant**
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	AA Degree / College Graduated / (5) Years Experience.
Position:	**(1) Clerk, Front Desk**
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	High School Graduated (5) Years Experience.
Position:	**(9) Waitress/Waiter**
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	High School Graduated / (5) Years Experience. Preferably Japanese Speaking.
Position:	**(8) Cook**
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	High School Graduated (10) Years Experience.
Position:	**(3) Electrician**
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	High School Graduated / (10) Years Experience.
Position:	**(2) Building General Maintenance**
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	High School Graduated / (10) Years Experience.

For more information you may contact Mr. Juan I. Tenorio, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-6495/8 ext. 5840/2.
Employment application forms are available at Hafadai Beach Hotel, Human Resources Department.
AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT-WINCHELL'S DONUTS

a. 1 vacancy for **Store Manager**. Wage range $7.50 per hour and up, depending on qualifications. College level. Must have at least 5 years of continued experience in managing bakery or similar operations. Must be able to manage 15 or more people and more than 1 store. Must be computer literate. Must know how to operate a cash register or POS system. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred.

b. 3 vacancies for **Store Supervisor**. Wage range $5.25 to $7.50 per hour depending on qualifications. College level, or an equivalent of at least 4-5 years of continued experience in supervising bakery operations. Must know how to operate a cash register or POS system. Must be customer-service oriented. Must be computer literate. Must be confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred.

c. 8 vacancies for **Sales Associates**. Wage range $5.05 to $5.25 per hour. High school level, or an equivalent of at least 4-5 years of continued experience in sales. Must know how to operate a cash register or POS system. Must be customer-service oriented. Must be computer literate. Must be confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Must be able to read, write and speak basic English. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred.

d. 6 vacancies for **Donut Makers/Bakers**. Wage range $5.05 to $5.25 per hour. High school level, or an equivalent of at least 3 years experience in baking. Knowledge in operating a cash register or POS system preferred. Must be customer-service oriented. Must be able to lift at least 50 lbs. Must be confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Must be able to read, write and speak basic English. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred.

Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health and good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to provide current police and court clearance, must be able to obtain health certificate, must have a reliable transportation and must agree to a drug test.

Please get application forms and submit them at our Winchell's Garapan location or email them to dennys@guam.net

GINEN SAIPAN

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: October 3, 2011 Closing Date: October 7, 2011

Position:	(1) Accountant
Salary:	$800 - $1,300 per month
Job Qualification:	Four year college diploma; minimum of eight years work-related experience; knowledgeable about Peachtree Accounting.
Position:	(1) Maintenance Building Repairer
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	High school graduate; minimum of two years work-related experience.
Position:	(1) Electrician
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	College or vocation school diploma; minimum four years work-related experience.
Position:	(4) Construction Laborers
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	High school diploma; minimum of two years work-related experience.

You may pick up an application at Ginen Saipan,
Industrial Drive, Puerto Rico
P.O. Box 503007 • Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. 322-3121

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) REGISTERED NURSES
- Must be an NCLEX passer with current CNMI License
- At least two years experience
- Must hold a degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- English Language skills- Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

(1) FRONT OFFICE MANAGER
- At least over five years experience in medical billing, electronic health and practice partner record or related field
- English language skills - Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension
- College Graduate
- Must be familiar with medical terminology, coding, medical procedure and diagnosis
- Must be certified pharmacy technician
- Must be proficient in computer skills

(1)HEALTHCARE CLINIC SYSTEM MANAGER
- A minimum of two to four years of work-related skill, knowledge, or experience.
- Bachelor's degree, or equivalent
- Maintains specialized computer programs relating to health care operations (medical billing, patient records, scheduler)
- Maintains all of company's computers systems to include computer hardware, computer software, and computer network.
- Oversees medical billing department utilizing specialized computer software.
- Oversees administrative areas and designs, develops and maintains a paperless computer system.
- Performs other duties as may be assigned.

(1)ULTRASOUND/X-RAY TECHNICIAN
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Tigers, Rangers take 2-1 lead with tight wins

DETROIT (AP)—Detroit's ace pitcher Justin Verlander struck out 11 batters over eight gritty innings to guide the Tigers to a 5-4 win over the New York Yankees on Monday, giving them a 2-1 lead in their best-of-five American League Division Series.

Detroit closer Jose Valverde closed it out, striking out Derek Jeter with two runners on base in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Delmon Young hit the tiebreaking homer for the Tigers, pushing New York to the brink of postseason elimination. The Yankees must win Game 4 in Detroit on Tuesday, when pitcher A.J. Burnett's shaky season will encounter its greatest test, against Detroit's Rick Porcello.

Verlander and New York ace C.C. Sabathia were back on the mound Monday after their series-opening matchup at Yankee Stadium was halted by rain after only 1 1/2 innings.

Verlander, who led the AL in wins, ERA and strikeouts, had a shaky start. Jeter hit Verlander's first pitch right back up the middle for a single, then Curtis Granderson's drive sailed over the head of Austin Jackson in left-center for an RBI triple. Alex Rodriguez made it 2-0 to the Yankees with an RBI groundout.

However Sabathia had even more problems, walking four of the first six hitters he faced, but Detroit grounded into double plays in each of the first two innings and didn't score.

Brandon Inge doubled in the third for Detroit's first hit, then Jackson walked. Ramon Santiago failed to get a bunt down but made up for it by lining an RBI single to left.

Delmon Young then hit a single, and Miguel Cabrera—who homered and drove in three runs in Game 2—came to the plate with the bases loaded and nobody out. He grounded into Detroit's third double play in three innings—but at least one run scored to tie the game 2-2.

Verlander found his groove during the middle innings. After a strike out to end the fourth, he struck out the side on 10 pitches in the fifth, leaving the New York hitters looking helpless as his sweeping breaking ball dropped over the plate.

The Tigers went ahead for the first time in the bottom of the fifth when Santiago — who was brought in to replace Ryan Rayburn as second baseman due to his strong record against Sabathia — hit a double to make it 3-2.

Detroit added another run off Sabathia in the sixth. Jhonny Peralta followed Don Kelly's bunt single with a double to left that appeared to bounce off a pole in the fence, rebounding strangely to the left while the runner came around to score.

Verlander struck trouble in the seventh, walking Jorge Posada with two outs, then hitting Russell Martin in the ribs with a fastball, putting runners on first and second.

Brett Gardner then lined a double to left-centerfield. By the time Jackson raced over to retrieve the ball and unleashed a mediocre throw back to the infield, both runners were on their way home and the game was tied 4-4.

In the bottom of the inning, Young responded with a homer that barely cleared the wall in right field and that stood as the winner as Valverde held on despite a less-than-convincing ninth inning.

AP

Detroit Tigers' Delmon Young high-fives third base coach Gene Lamont after a solo home run during the seventh inning of Game 3 of baseball's American League division series against the New York Yankees on Monday, Oct. 3, 2011, in Detroit.

Rangers 4,Rays 3

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Texas survived a shaky performance from the bullpen and beat Tampa Bay and take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five AL Division Series.

Colby Lewis outpitched All-Star David Price and Mike Napoli hit a go-ahead two-run homer for Texas, which has won four straight division series road games.

Rookie Desmond Jennings hit a pair of solo homers for the Rays, who kept it interesting by scoring twice off Rangers relievers before Texas closer Neftali Feliz got four outs to end it and set up a big Game 4 at Tropicana Field on Tuesday.

The contest finished when Texas third baseman Adrian Beltre, playing deep and guarding the line to prevent a double, started a double play on Kelly Shoppach's grounder.

Price, who was the losing pitcher in two of Tampa Bay's playoff losses in 2010, is still yet to win a game against the Rangers in his career despite taking a 1-0 lead into the seventh, thanks to Jennings' fourth-inning homer.

Beltre singled leading off the seventh against Price and took second a wild pitch. A crowd of 32,828 — the first sellout at Tropicana Field since opening day — fell silent when Napoli lifted a pitch into the seats beyond left-center field for a 2-1 advantage. Josh Hamilton extended the lead with a two-run single.

As good as Price was early, Lewis was better in limiting the Rays to one hit over six innings. Jennings' first homer was the only hit off the Rangers pitcher, who had worked 16 consecutive scoreless innings against the Rays up to that point.

But the Rangers bullpen nearly let a three-run lead slip away.

Johnny Damon, Ben Zobrist and Casey Kotchman singled to load the bases against reliever Darren Oliver in the seventh. Damon scored when Sean Rodriguez grounded out, but the Rangers escaped further damage when the second pitcher of the inning, Alexi Ogando, induced Sam Fuld to hit a roller to second base.

The Rays weren't finished. Jennings led off the eighth with his second homer, trimming Texas' lead to 4-3. Mike Adams walked B.J. Upton but he was then caught stealing. Adams then walked Evan Longoria and Matt Joyce to get himself into trouble again.

The Rangers wiggled off the hook when reliever Michael Gonzales struck out Damon. Feliz came on to fan Zobrist with the tying and go-ahead runs in scoring position.

NBA negotiations break, with 'very huge day' ahead

NEW YORK (AP)—After a lockout that has lasted more than three months, whether the NBA season starts on time could come down to one "very huge day" in labor talks.

Owners and players will be back Tuesday for a full bargaining session, knowing if they fail to produce results, there may not be enough time left to avoid canceling regular-season games.

"A lot of signs point to tomorrow being a very huge day," players' association president Derek Fisher of the Lakers said. "There will be a lot of pressure on all of us in the room, and we'll accept that responsibility and go in and see what we can get worked out."

The sides met in small groups Monday for about five hours, a session that Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver said was mainly about "setting the table" for Tuesday. While careful not to put too much pressure on Tuesday's talks, he and Commissioner David Stern made clear there had to be signs of compromise.

"Each side understands exactly what's at stake and where potentially there is movement in order to try to get a deal done," Silver said. "I mean, we can only say we're running out of time so many times.

"We both understand that if we don't make our best offers in the next few days, we're going to be at the point where we're going to be causing damage to the game, to ourselves, and they're going to be out paychecks," he added.

The regular season is scheduled to open Nov. 1. Players would have reported to training camps Monday, but those were postponed and 43 preseason games scheduled for Oct. 9-15 were canceled last month.

"We still are in the same position that we all wish we were starting training camp today and we know a lot of our fans in respective markets feel the same way," Fisher said. "So we're going to continue to work at this until we can either figure it out in a way that will spare us all a lot of collateral damage and games missed, or not, but we're going to put the effort and the time in as we have been doing and see if we can come to a resolution."

The league locked out players on July 1 after the expiration of the old collective bargaining agreement. Seeking significant changes after saying they lost $300 million last season, owners want a new salary cap structure and are seeking to reduce the players' guarantee of basketball revenues from 57 percent, to perhaps 50 percent or below.

Fisher, who didn't take questions, said the sides still weren't close enough to be able to talk about major progress, but were aware of the calendar.

"We know that our backs are against the wall in terms of regular-season games and what those consequences will be," he added, "but we still have to be respectful to the process, not rush through this, realizing that there are great deal of ramifications for years to come. So we have to be responsible in that regard."

ESPN.com reported Monday that six powerful agents had sent a letter to their clients warning them of the financial damage the current proposals would cause them, and urging them to demand a full vote on any proposed deal.

Fisher later sent a letter to players, obtained by The Associated Press, in which he said the agents' letter "includes misinformation and unsupported theories."

"One issue I need to again be very clear on...nothing can be accepted without a vote by the players," Fisher wrote. "If and when there is a proposal that we feel is in the best interests of us as players, each of you WILL have the opportunity to vote in person. It's in the union bylaws, it's not up for negotiation. You will have the opportunity to see the full proposal before you agree, you will be able to challenge it, question it, anything you feel appropriate in order to know that this is the best deal for you and your fellow players."

Fisher later added: "We go into tomorrow's meeting strong, remaining steadfast on the issues we will not be able to move away from. Anyone saying different is not privy to the meetings and is uninformed."

Celtics All-Star Paul Pierce was the only other player to take part. Though not a member of the union executive committee, he participated in meetings over the weekend and Silver had singled him out as a player who had said meaningful things.

Fisher said he didn't know which players would come Tuesday. The sides will meet among themselves in the morning before the bargaining session follows in the afternoon.

"If it's a very short meeting, that's bad," Stern said. "And if it's a very long meeting, that's not as bad."

Stern had warned last week there would be "enormous consequences" to not making progress over the weekend, but he's since been cautious not to overstate anything.

"It would be great to be able to make some real progress tomorrow," he said. "Whether that's possible or not, I don't know, but we had a good meeting today defining the issues and the positions and we'll see how that works."

Stern said it would be difficult to have an 82-game regular season and not start Nov. 1, noting that arenas are already pressuring the league to see if they can schedule events later this year. Yet as much as the league wants the work stoppage to end, there still may be too many differences to make it happen quickly enough.

The revenue split and the cap structure have been such obstacles that the sides have hardly touched anything else that would go in the CBA. Perhaps that's why Stern and Silver referred to Tuesday being more a beginning than an end to the process.

"It can't end no matter what tomorrow, because even if we begin to make progress, I mean there are literally a hundred other issues that haven't even been addressed yet, so-called 'B-List' issues," Silver said. "So there's a long negotiation ahead of us no matter what."

Freeman, Buccaneers rally to beat Colts, 24-17

AP

Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Josh Freeman dives for a first down during the second half of an NFL football game against the Indianapolis Colts Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2011, in Tampa, Fla.

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Josh Freeman and LeGarrette Blount reversed roles Monday night against Indianapolis.

Freeman picked up the tough yards, and Blount had the highlight play. Together, they helped the Tampa Bay Buccaneers win their third consecutive game.

Freeman threw for 287 yards and a touchdown, Blount ran for 127 yards and a score, and the Buccaneers beat the Colts 24-17 in prime time.

Freeman, who ran for a touchdown early in the game, scrambled for a huge first down on the winning drive. Two plays later, Blount found a gaping hole, bounced to the outside and scampered 35 yards for a touchdown. He carried defensive back David Caldwell the final few yards before diving for the pylon.

Freeman wasn't done with the dirty work, though. Needing a yard to move the chains, extend the drive and deny the Colts a chance to tie the game, Freeman picked up the first down on a fourth-and-1 play.

"It really wasn't pretty the whole time, but that's us," Freeman said.

The Buccaneers (3-1) kept pace with New Orleans in the NFC South. The Colts fell to 0-4 for the first time since 1998, Peyton Manning's rookie season. Manning has watched all four losses, unable to play because of a neck injury.

Curtis Painter started this one, filling in for injured backup Kerry Collins, who's out because of a concussion, and played better than most expected.

"It's always a little easier when you know you're going to get some playing time," Painter said. "We got off to a good start and put some points on the board. But obviously we have to find a way to put more points on the board and move the ball a little bit better."

Painter completed 13 of 30 passes for 281 yards and two touchdowns, both long ones to Pierre Garcon. He wasn't nearly as effective down the stretch, partly because the Colts lost starting offensive linemen Anthony Castonzo and Ben Ijalana to injuries. Guard Ryan Diem was inactive.

"I think you have to deal with injuries in this business," Colts coach Jim Caldwell said. "They happen. You just have to find a way to overcome it. That's what we talk about—the next man up. Somebody has got to fill in and be ready to play."

Nonetheless, losing three guys at the same position is tough for any team to overcome.

"It's one of those things where we have to move some things around and make some adjustments," Caldwell said. "It's not a good situation, but nevertheless one that you have to work through."

Painter and Garcon were the lone bright spots for the Colts.

Garcon turned a short sideline route into an 87-yard score in the second quarter, then took a screen pass and weaved his way through defenders for a 59-yarder in the third.

Those were the team's longest plays of the season. The 87-yarder was the fifth-longest pass play in team history and longer than anything Manning has thrown in his NFL career.

The Colts were up 17-10 after Garcon's second score, but it was all Tampa Bay in the final 20-plus minutes.

"It's always good to win on a national stage," Bucs coach Raheem Morris said. "Everybody wants to have a better performance, but it's hard to apologize for wins, so we're excited about them all. They're hard enough to get, so you might as well enjoy every single one you do."

Freeman was 25 of 39 passing, buying time in the pocket and picking apart Indy's zone defense. He got the Bucs on the scoreboard with a 1-yard plunge in the second quarter and tied the game at 10 with a 13-yard pass to Preston Parker late in the third.

Blount put them ahead for good with his longest run of the season. Freeman kept them there with his fourth-down plunge into the line.

Tampa Bay's biggest problem of the game—aside from giving up the two long TD passes—was penalties. The Buccaneers were flagged 14 times for 106 yards.

None of those was as costly as Dwight Freeney's penalty. Indianapolis' star pass-rusher was flagged for being offside on a third-and-19 play. The Buccaneers converted on the ensuing play, setting up Connor Barth's 46-yard field goal that tied the game at 10.

Indy went back in front on Garcon's second score. He eluded several defenders while crisscrossing the field, and may have been aided by a block in the back. There were no flags, though.

Garcon's first one was nearly as good. He turned up the sideline and outran everyone to the end zone, giving the Colts a 10-0 lead.

Freeman responded by driving the Bucs down the field, then sneaked the ball across the goal line. Tampa Bay had a chance to tie the game or take the lead just before halftime, but Robert Mathis sacked Freeman on third down and the Bucs had to scramble to get the field goal unit lined up.

They did, and Barth's kick was good from 37 yards. But the Bucs had 12 men on the field, so they went to the locker room trailing.

It didn't matter, not against the struggling Colts.

"I think we're close," Painter said. "We're just scratching for win here. Everybody is playing hard. That's one thing about our team. We're not going to quit. We're going to continue to battle and hopefully get over the hump."

Goodell says players 'know we're watching' tackles

WASHINGTON (AP)—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has a message for anyone wondering whether his sport is worse off because of an increased emphasis on eliminating violent hits: We're doing fine, thanks.

"People have criticized us as changing the game," Goodell said Monday. "I don't believe that. I think we have taken techniques out of the game and improved the game and made it safer - and the game's more popular than ever."

Goodell met with about a half-dozen reporters after delivering a speech about concussions at the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. He told the gathering of doctors that the NFL and the players' union jointly have committed to spending $100 million over the next 10 years on medical research - "the vast majority" on brain injury research.

Goodell

He also told the group: "If there is any suspicion about a player being concussed, he should be removed from the game. Period. This is consistent with our policy that medical considerations must steer the ship and always override competitive concerns."

Afterward, Goodell told reporters the NFL has "made tremendous progress" in the area of head injuries, "and it comes in a variety of different ways, and overall it's about changing the culture, not just in the NFL."

One way that change is seen, according to Goodell: Players increasingly are pointing out teammates who have concussion symptoms.

Another way: different tackling.

"Players really are playing the game differently. They're using their shoulders; they're not using their head. And I think they're having the same impact on either tackling or separating the ball in the case of a pass play," Goodell said.

"You're always going to have individuals that are going to, maybe, go outside the rules—but they know we're watching, and they know that it's not in their best interest from a health standpoint," he continued. "So the fact is, it's not good for them as the one who's doing the striking as well as the person who is struck."

Goodell said the last report he received about NFL concussions covered only exhibition games—and it showed the number of players' head injuries "were roughly consistent" with the 2010 preseason.

He thinks it's too soon—four weeks into the regular season—to judge what impact the new kickoff rules might be having in cutting down on head injuries. Goodell also said it makes sense to wait to decide whether rules in the new collective bargaining agreement cutting down on full-contact practices are having any effect.

As for future advancements, Goodell said the elimination of three-point stances for linemen in order to cut down on helmet-to-helmet contact will "continue to get evaluated."

The league's competition committee and other panels have discussed that possibility "a fair amount," Goodell said, but "they just haven't felt that it was a significant move that was going to really change the game from a health and safety standpoint right now."

Similarly, the league has "done a number of research studies" to determine whether wearing mouthpieces can help players, and that work "has not proven, to date, that they are significant in preventing concussions," Goodell said.

Before Goodell's speech to the neurological surgeons, Dr. Richard Ellenbogen, a co-chairman of the NFL's head, neck and spine committee, told the group about the NFL's work with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in formulating an online educational toolkit to help diagnose and manage concussions. The toolkit will be available on the CDC's website later this week.

RGA October Ace at COP

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will be holding its October Ace of the Month tournament this Saturday at Coral Ocean Point.

Check-in time is at 11am, while tee off is at 12nn. The score to beat is 80, which Tars Olopai recorded during the October Ace qualifying tournament early this month also at COP. Three other RGA members scored better than 80 in the October qualifier, but since all of them had already won the Ace of the Month plum, Olopai moved closer to claiming the October title. If no golfer shoots better than 80 at COP this weekend, Olopai gets to keep the October Ace and qualifies for the club championship.

The RGA Club Championship is likely to take place early December this year and the association is reminding monthly Ace winners to compete in at least six RGA-sanctioned events to qualify for the season-ending tournament. If Ace winners fail to meet the required number of tournaments, the monthly runners-up will take their spots.

Meanwhile, RGA will also host a two-man scramble format tournament on Oct. 23 with the venue yet to be determined. Then next month, the club will have the Turkey Shootout. Other details of the two tournaments will be announced later.

For more information about RGA tournaments, contact Olopai at 483-5508, Tony Rogolifoi at 288-3515, and Jess Wabol at 288-1129. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

TEAM

From Page 28

Hole Bar & Grill to improve to a win-loss slate of 22-13.

Former co-leader Shark Attack absorbed a surprising 3-4 upset at home in Wild Bill's Bar & Grill to Jonny's Team SCS (15-20). Shark Attack dropped two games after coming into the week with a share of the top spot.

In addition, the 19th Hole Titans (15-20) outlasted Jonny's Crazy 8 (16-19), 4-3, in another road upset.

IT&E Voyagers, for its part, shut out Fotten Palau (7-28), 7-0, in a road match at Joe's Bar & Grill and improved its record to 28-7.

Seven games back in the Agingan Division is its sister-team, IT&E Incredibles, of Sand's Bar, which bested the third-ranked Docomo Hustlers (19-16), 5-2, on the road at Utopia Sports Bar.

VFW Post 3457's X-Tream (14-21), meanwhile, pulled out a 5-2 road upset over Home Boyz Five (16-19) at Jonny's. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

5 CNMI

From Page 28

Junior Championships in Lautoka Fiji. Ackerman ruled the girls U12 division of the POJC, while Rastguiy was the runner-up in the same age group. Miller also placed second in the boys U15, while Jones and Minor were ranked fourth and fifth in the very competitive U18 division, respectively.

"This is great news for our young players. Having five players selected is the most the CNMI has ever had and it reflects the dedication of these players, the sacrifices of their parents, and the hard work of their coaches," CNMI coach Jeff Race said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

The four players traveling to Australia are expected to leave Saipan in the last week of December, as they must arrive in Melbourne on Jan. 1. They will then attend a camp in Albury from Jan. 3 and 4 and the next day join the Margaret Court Team event.

The CNMI netters' second competition will be the Margaret Court Tournament from Jan. 6 to 10 and from Albury, they will travel to Wodonga for the Victoria Junior Grasscourt Championships that will run from Jan. 11 to 15.

The visitors will then return to Melbourne to watch a few games in the prestigious 2011 Australian Open.

Meanwhile, Rastguiy will be the lone CNMI representative on the touring team and she will leave earlier than his four other teammates. She will compete in tournaments in Hamilton, Gisborne, and Auckland.

It will be Rastguiy's second tour of duty with the visiting team after a stellar debut last year. She won both the singles and doubles crowns in the girls U12 division of the 2010 Poverty Bay East Coast Junior Open in Gisborne. In the singles finale, the CNMI netter stunned Pacific Oceania teammate Ayana Rengiil of Palau, 6-3, 6-3. In the doubles finals, Rastguiy joined forces with Guam's Nadine Del Carmen of Guam and they beat Rengiil and New Zealand's Ariana Albert, 6-1, 6-3.

In her first competition in New Zealand last year, Rastguiy made it to the finals of the 2010 Waikato Junior Open at the Waikato Tennis Centre in Hamilton, losing the championship to No. 3 seed Nina Paripovich.

MP UNITED

From Page 28

sorbed its first loss after a rousing debut in the league on Sept. 24 where it clobbered Shirley's FC 1, 17-0.

MP United 1 and 2 were pretty even in the first few minutes of the opening frame before Joyner and company became aggressive midway in the first half to take control of the last match of the day.

By the end of the first half, MP United 1 went ahead at 3-0. MP United 2 then worked on its defensive adjustments in the second half and goalie Julian Pellegrino made several saves, preventing MP United 1 from creating more damage and limiting the defending champion to only one goal.

In the second match in Week 2 of the league, Tan Holdings FC showed no mercy against Shirley's FC 1 to notch its second win in as many games. Tan Holdings shut out Paire in Week 1, 3-0.

Tan Holdings was consistent with its offense, scoring six goals apiece in the first and second half.

Matansa 9, Shirley's FC 2 1

In the opening game in Week 2, Matansa Football Club gave Shirley's FC 2 a rude welcome, nailing an emphatic 9-1 triumph.

Matansa jumped to a 5-0 halftime lead and never looked back, as it scored one goal after another against the all-female roster of Shirley's FC 2. The victory allowed Matansa to bounce back from a disappointing 1-12 loss to MP United 1 in the league opener.

Yoshi Ray Mafnas had a hat-trick for Matansa, while Jireh Yobech, Sean Perez, Evan Belcher, and David James Bucayo also scored for Matansa. Shirley's FC's lone goal came from Karen Ito.

GIRLS U15
Shirley's FC 7, Paire 2

In the first game in the girls U15 over at the San Antonio Elementary School, Shirley's FC won its debut game against Paire, 7-2.

Alexa Vergara and Jeraldine Castillo hit two goals each for Shirley's FC, while Melody Johnson and Mariel Gariguez added one apiece. The winning team was credited with an own goal in the second half.

Matansa 2, MP United 1

In the other girls match , defending champion Matansa improved to a 2-0-0 win-draw-loss slate after a 2-1 win over MP United.

Tahlia Hideo and Elizabeth Basa scored for Matansa in the first half en route to their second win. Matansa crushed Tan Holdings in the league opener, 10-0.

Amy Taylor gave MP United its only goal in the match and her team dropped to a 1-0-1 record.

BOYS U18
Paire 7, Matansa 2

Back at the Oleai pitch for the boys U18 league, Paire defeated Matansa, 7-2.

Paire now has a 2-0-0 card for the lead in the three-team field after a 3-2 upset over MP United in Week 1.

Evert Van Der Maas canned twin goals for Paire, while Hae Sung Lee, Don Cabrera, Zhi Lin also scored for the team. Mark King and Matthew Mafnas put Matansa in the scoreboard in their debut game.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

5 CNMI jr. netters get NZ, Aussie invites

Ackerman

Jones

Miller

Minor

Rastguiy

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five CNMI junior tennis players earned slots on the ITF-Pacific Oceania Touring Team that will compete in New Zealand and Australia.

The list include Thea Minor, Rafael Jones, Christian Miller, and Tammy Ackerman, who will be on the team that will participate in three tournaments in the Land Down Under. Negahr Rastguiy was also selected on the team, but she will join the group that will play in New Zealand.

The five Commonwealth bets were chosen on the elite squad after their impressive showing in the 2011 Pacific Oceania

See 5 CNMI on Page 27

Team Pirata in control of Obyan

D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Team Pirata now sits alone atop the Saipan Billiards Association's Obyan Division standings after the conclusion of last week's matchups.

Meanwhile in the Agingan Division, Jonny's Bar & Grill's IT&E Voyagers are starting to pull away from the pack.

Pirata defeated third-ranked Poksu (17-18), 5-2, on the road at the 19th

See TEAM on Page 27

Ol'Aces rout Blazers, 66-52, in U19 caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantriune.com
REPORTER

The CK Blazers got a healthy dose of Ol'Aces' Sahj Hossain, seen here soaring to the hoop, in their U19 Rotary caging match-up Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex.
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Defending champion Ol'Aces ended its regular season on a high note, following a 66-52 romp of Chalan Kanoa Blazers as the regular season of the 2011 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball U19 wrapped up Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

Ol'Aces hopes to take the momentum with them into tomorrow's playoff match against the Sonics at 4:45pm in Gualo Rai. These two squads battled it out in last year's championship match. The pair also squared off in the season opener with Ol'Aces prevailing, 52-44.

In addition, Rollers 2 takes on Ray Basa's Kagman Rollers in the second playoff feature scheduled for 6pm.

Ol'Aces' Sahj Hossain tallied nine markers in the opening eight minutes to give his team an early five-point lead, 12-7.

Ol'Aces then shared the ball very well in the second quarter as the team built a 26-18 margin at the midway point of the game..

Blazers' Patrick Torres delivered nine points in the first half to help keep his crew in contention.

Hossain returned after the break and connected on a trio of 3-pointers for 15 points in the third quarter that helped his team pull away, 45-34, heading into the final canto.

Blazers' Torres managed nine more points in the period, but his team struggled to find an answer for Hossain who was simply on fire and playing on a high level.

With a daunting lead in hand, Ol'Aces put went to cruise control in the final period.

As for the Blazers, their front man Brandon Aulerio was on the sidelines with a shoulder injury and the Blazers seemed out of sync throughout the match.

Torres did his best to fill the void, but the group as a whole was not on the same page and missed too many easy baskets.

Hossain finished with a game-high 32 points, while Torres turned in 23 on the short end.

Ol'Aces 66 – Hossain 32, Rangamar 9, Maratita 9, Mizer 7, Dillay 4, Taylor 4.

CK Blazers 52 – Torres 23, Eughbanks 16, Basa 6, Sablan 4, Ray 3

Scoring by quarters: 12-7, 25-18, 45-34, 66-52.

MP United, Tan Holdings share lead

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United 1's Dakota Hall makes a corner kick during their game against MP United 2 in the boys U15 division of the NMIFA fall league last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United FC 1 and Tan Holdings FC are tied for the early lead in the boys U15 division of the 2011 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League after winning separate games last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

MP United 1 won the battle of sister teams after downing MP United 2, 4-1, while Tan Holdings FC routed Shirley's FC 1, 12-1.

Jehn Joyner scored twin goals for MP United, while Jake Lee and Ryota Ito contributed one each to give their team a 2-0-0 win-draw-loss record and the early lead in the seven-squad field.

MP United 2, which got its lone goal from John Choi, ab-

See MP UNITED on Page 27

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